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STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Japan joins 3 US carriers for naval drills in western Pacific

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MICHAEL RUSSELL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Navy and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships take part in a three-carrier strike force exercise east of the Korean Peninsula on Sunday.

Army expands medical waivers

Allowances meant to boost recruiting

By TOM VANDEN BROOK
USA Today

WASHINGTON — People with a history of "self-mutilation," bipolar disorder, depression and drug and alcohol abuse now can seek waivers to join the Army under an unannounced policy enacted in August, according to documents obtained by USA Today.

The decision to open Army recruiting to those with mental health conditions comes as the service faces the challenging goal of recruiting 80,000 new soldiers through September 2018. To meet last year's goal of 69,000, the Army accepted more recruits who fared poorly on aptitude tests, increased the number of waivers granted for marijuana use and offered hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses.

Expanding the waivers for mental health is possible in part because the Army now has access to more medical information about each potential recruit, Lt. Col. Randy Taylor, an Army spokesman, said in a statement. The Army issued the ban on waivers in 2009 amid an epidemic of suicides among troops.

"The decision was primarily due to the increased availability of medical records and other data which is now more readily available," Taylor's statement to USA Today said. "These records allow Army officials to better document applicant medical histories."

SEE RECRUITS ON PAGE 5

Air Force could face lawsuits over Texas mass shooting

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force faces many millions of dollars in potential liability for the mass shooting at a small-town church in Texas earlier this month by a former servicemember, legal experts say.

"I think it's almost inevitable that the Air Force will be sued," said retired Lt. Gen. Richard Harding, former judge advocate general of the service. "And I think there's a case that can be made, you bet."

If lawsuits against the Air Force were successful, said Don Christensen, the service's former top prosecutor, the damages could be huge.

"What is being shot while you're in church,



Kelley

watching your baby be killed — what's it worth?" Christensen said. "I don't see how it's not the biggest financial payout in the history of the Air Force."

U.S. laws rarely provide for victims of gun violence to seek compensation in civil lawsuits, and the doctrine of sovereign immunity prevents many lawsuits against the government. But this case is exceptional, experts said.

Devin Kelley, who killed and injured scores

of parishioners on Nov. 5 in Texas' worst mass shooting, was convicted of domestic violence assault in 2012 while in the Air Force. Under a 1996 law precluding spouse and child abusers from possessing firearms, the service's Office of Special Investigations should have entered that conviction into an FBI database.

The office didn't, the Air Force has acknowledged. What's more, the acts Kelley pleaded guilty to — breaking his baby stepson's skull and hitting and kicking his then-wife — were punishable by imprisonment of more than a year. That qualifies them as felonies, which must be entered into the database.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

US-targeted ISIS in Somalia could be 'significant threat'

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'Wonder Woman' faces its biggest challenge: winning over Academy voters

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Not thinking often means not winning in professional sports

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Suicide bomber injures 4 US servicemembers in Afghanistan » Page 4

PACIFIC

N. Korean soldier shot while defecting at DMZ

BY KIM GAMEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A North Korean soldier was shot by his comrades as he defected to the South on Monday in an extremely rare crossing via the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone, military officials said.

The defection came less than a week after President Donald Trump traveled to South Korea to pledge solidarity with the longtime U.S. ally amid soaring tensions over the growing nuclear and missile threat from the North.

The soldier fled from his guard post in the jointly controlled area where the two sides face each other across the line that divides the peninsula, according to South Korea's military.

Other North Korean forces opened fire, wounding the soldier as he advanced toward the South Korean side's reception building known as the Freedom House, an official said, reading a statement from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have defected to the South, but it's unusual for soldiers to flee across the so-called DMZ,

a 2.5-mile-wide, 150-mile-long buffer zone lined with barbed wire and dotted with land mines.

It's rarer for them to leave their posts in the Joint Security Area, which is controlled on the southern side by the U.S.-led United Nations Command. South Korea's Unification Ministry, which oversees defectors, said the last time it happened was in 2007.

The North Korean soldier, who was shot in the shoulder and the elbow, was airlifted to a hospital by a United Nations Command helicopter, another military official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in exchange for providing the details.

The South Korean military found him bleeding about 25 minutes after several rounds of gunfire were heard, the official said, adding the North Korean soldier was unarmed and was wearing a combat uniform indicating a low rank.

The military said the two sides did not trade gunfire, but it has raised its alert level and is maintaining a full readiness posture against the possibility of provocations from North Korea.

Panmunjom, home to the JSA, is the only point where U.S. and South Korean soldiers stand face to face with North Korean

The soldier, who was shot in the shoulder and elbow, was found bleeding by the South Korean military about 25 minutes after several rounds of gunfire were heard.

soldiers. It has become a popular tourist site, and visitors even can walk into North Korea while inside one of the blue conference buildings that straddle the Military Demarcation Line.

The 1953 armistice that ended three years of fighting between the U.S.-backed South and the communist-backed North was signed in one of the blue buildings. The agreement left the sides technically at war, and some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in South Korea.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Vice President Mike Pence and other senior administration officials recently have used the area as a backdrop to pledge their re-

solve against the North and solidarity with the South. North Korean soldiers often film them, coming within a few feet of the dignitaries.

Former presidents Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama also made the pilgrimage to the area.

Trump tried to make a surprise visit to the DMZ last week, but his helicopter was forced to turn back to Seoul after heavy fog prevented it from landing at the frontier.

Violence has broken out in the area in the past. In 1984, a Soviet tourist sprinted across the demarcation line from North Korea in a bid to defect, prompting a gun-battle that killed and wounded several soldiers from both sides.

Two American soldiers also were killed in the DMZ by ax-wielding North Korean soldiers in a 1976 brawl over an attempt to trim a poplar tree. That prompted Washington to send nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to intimidate the North before the adversaries pulled back from the brink of conflict.

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S. Korean police detain US man in restricted zone near North

BY KIM GAMEL AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean police have arrested a U.S. citizen who allegedly entered a restricted border area near North Korea without permission.

A 58-year-old man from Louisiana identified only as "A" was detained Monday after crossing the Civilian Control Line near the heavily fortified frontier, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

People must have permits to enter the area, which is just south of the Demilitar-

ized Zone, a 2.5-mile-wide, 150-mile-long no man's land that divides the peninsula. It's also the site of several tourist attractions.

Military officials initially said they believed the man traveled to South Korea planning to enter the North for political purposes. But investigators, who have turned the case over to local police, later said he had determined he had no communist connections.

The U.S. Embassy is aware of the report and is looking into it, an official told Stars

and Stripes on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the case.

"If it is determined that a U.S. citizen has been detained, the embassy will provide appropriate consular services," the official said. "Privacy concerns prevent us from sharing information on individual cases."

A local resident in Yeoncheon County, about 40 miles north of Seoul, discovered the American and reported him to the South Korean army, a military official said. The man was captured about an hour later in an area controlled by the 28th In-

fantry Division.

A police officer in the area said the man had traveled to South Korea on Nov. 3, contradicting a report that he had arrived three days ago.

The two Koreas remain technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in the South.

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MILITARY



AARON HICKS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Three F/A-18E Super Hornets, foreground, fly in formation over the U.S. aircraft carriers USS Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Nimitz and their strike groups, along with ships from the South Korean navy, east of the Korean Peninsula on Sunday as part of a rare, three-aircraft carrier exercise.

US Navy shows off air power during rare drills

By LEON COOK
AND TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

USS NIMITZ, Sea of Japan — The Navy put its air power on display as a rare, three-aircraft carrier exercise entered its final stretch Monday in waters east of the Korean Peninsula.

The four-day drills, which kicked off on Saturday, involved the USS Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Nimitz and are aimed at demonstrating the Navy's "unique capability to operate multiple carrier strike groups as a coordinated strike force effort," the service said last week.

The exercise — which is happening as President Donald Trump wraps up his lengthy tour of five Asian nations — includes air-defense drills, sea surveillance, defensive air combat training and close-in coordinated maneuvers.

The Nimitz's flight deck was a hive of activity Monday as crewmembers readied steam catapults that would send 23-ton F/A-18E and 18F Super Hornets soaring skyward. Moments later, the hook runners would ready the arresting cable to catch another jet in the "controlled crash" of a carrier landing.

Elsewhere on the flight deck — and in hangars below — ground crewmen readied aircraft that would soon take to the skies above the sea to engage in mock dogfights, while others inspected jets that had recently landed.

"This is a unique opportunity. It's rare that you can aggregate a force the way we did here," Rear Adm. Greg Harris, commander of the Nimitz strike group, told Stars and Stripes on Monday from a hangar aboard the carrier. His group includes the Nimitz, Carrier Air Wing 11, Destroyer Squadron 9, and several other support ships.

The air wing has flown an average of 80 sorties per day since Saturday, according to its commander, Capt. Mike Spencer. The Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan strike groups have flown a similar number. The last tri-carrier drills took place in 2007 off the coast of Guam during ex-



PHOTOS BY LEON COOK/Stars and Stripes

Above: Green-shirted hook runners, who ensure the arresting cable is reset for each aircraft, wait for a jet to land on the USS Nimitz during the exercise Monday. Below: An EA-18G Growler from Electronic Attack Squadron 142 is prepared to be launched from the Nimitz via one of four steam catapults.



"This is a unique opportunity. It's rare that you can aggregate a force the way we did here."

Rear Adm. Greg Harris
commander, USS Nimitz strike group

ercise Valiant Shield. The Navy has in recent years conducted dual-carrier operations in the South China, East China and Philippine seas.

Navy officials told Stars and Stripes the drills are not part of a planned multinational exercise, although imagery released Sunday shows Japanese Maritime Self-Defense

To view a photo gallery and video of the rare U.S. Navy display, go to: stars.com/go/nimitz



Force and the South Korean warships sailing in formation alongside U.S. vessels.

The Japanese destroyers JS Inazuma, JS Makinise and JS Ise conducted a drill alongside the three U.S. carriers to "improve tactics and skills" and "strengthen cooperation" with the Navy," said a JMSDF statement issued Sunday.

Seven South Korean vessels, including two destroyers, trained alongside the carriers for the "purpose of coping with [North Korean] provocations and threats," according to a statement issued Monday by South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The drills will "restrain [North Korea] from doing nuclear and missile provocations," it added.

Navy officials told Stars and Stripes last week the exercise "is just another example of the service's regular and routine presence" in the region and is not directed at North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's regime.

The communist state has test-fired dozens of ballistic missiles in recent months and conducted its sixth and most powerful underground nuclear blast on Sept. 3. However, Pyongyang has been unusually quiet since a Hwasong-12 missile launched on Sept. 15 flew over the Japanese island of Hokkaido and landed in the Pacific Ocean.

Trump has warned that the U.S. military is "locked and loaded" and has threatened to unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea if it continues to threaten the U.S.

Aboard his carrier on Monday, the Nimitz strike group commander suggested the exercise was aimed at reassuring America's allies in the tension-filled region.

"We want to very clearly show our allies and partners, 'We have been here for 70 years for you, and we are going to be here for 70 more,'" Harris said.

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WAR/MILITARY



SYRIAN CENTRAL MILITARY MEDIA/AP

This frame grab from video provided Wednesday by the government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media shows weapons firing on militants' positions on the Iraq-Syria border.

Syria now faces US-backed Kurds after collapse of ISIS

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT — With the fall of Islamic State's last significant stronghold in Syria, Iranian and Russia-backed Syrian troops now turn to face off with their main rival, the U.S.-backed forces holding large oil fields and strategic territory in the country's north and east.

The complicated map puts U.S. and Iranian forces at close proximity, standing just across the Euphrates River from each other, amid multiple hotspots that could turn violent, particularly in the absence of a clear American policy.

There are already signs. Iran threatened recently that Syrian troops will advance toward Raqqa, the former ISIS capital which fell to the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces in October, raising the potential for a clash there. The Kurdish-led SDF also controls some of Syria's largest oil fields in the oil-rich eastern Deir el-Zour province, an essential resource the Syrian government also says it will take back.

The SDF also faces restlessness in an Arab-majority town it liberated last year, a possible sign of things to come in other areas that the Kurdish-dominated forces control in their self-rule area in northern Syria, now about 25 percent of the country's territory.

The question now is whether the United States is willing to confront the troops of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iran-backed militiamen. The Kurds are seeking a clear American commitment to help them defend their gains. American officials have said little of their plans and objectives in Syria beyond general statements about continuing to deny ISIS safe havens and continuing to train and equip allies.

During a meeting with Ali Akbar Velayati, the ad-

viser of Iran's supreme leader, Assad said his war was against terrorism and against plans to partition Syria, a direct reference to Kurdish aspirations for a recognized autonomous zone in the north. He repeated that his government plans to regain control of all of Syria.

With its collapse in Boukamal on Thursday, ISIS has no major territory left in Syria or Iraq. Its militants are believed to have pulled back into the desert, east and west of the Euphrates River. The group has a small presence near the capital, Damascus.

The Euphrates now stands as the dividing line between Syrian government troops and the SDF in much of Deir el-Zour province.

Government forces and their allies, including Iranian troops and fighters from the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, control the western bank. They hold the provincial capital and several small oil fields.

The Kurdish-led force, along with American troops advising them, is on the eastern bank. They hold two of Syria's largest oil fields, nearly a dozen smaller ones, one of the largest gas fields and large parts of the border with Iraq. They say they are determined to keep the government from crossing the river.

Washington has been wary of Iran's increasing influence in the area and its attempts to establish a land corridor from Iraq across Iraq and Syria to Lebanon. For weeks, the coalition said the SDF intended to push to Boukamal. Now it is not clear what the U.S. will do.

To avoid frictions in the crowded battlefield, the U.S.-led coalition said it maintains contacts with Assad's ally Russia.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis acknowledged that allies have pressed for a clearer U.S. policy in Syria. The priority was to get the U.N.-sponsored peace talks back on track, he said, offering few details.

4 US troops injured in Kandahar blast

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four U.S. servicemembers were injured Monday when a suicide bomber struck a military convoy in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, officials said.

The incident occurred near Kandahar Air Field, where U.S. and coalition forces are based, said Qudratullah Khushbakht, a spokesman for the province's

governor.

The U.S. troops were injured when a vehicle bomb exploded, NATO's mission in Afghanistan said in a statement. It said that all four casualties were in stable condition. There were no fatalities.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Also on Monday, an Afghan official said a Taliban attack in western Farah province killed

eight police officers, The Associated Press reported.

The Taliban attacked a police checkpoint near the city of Farah, the provincial capital, early Monday morning, a government spokesman told the AP.

One policeman was slightly wounded in the attack and was subsequently arrested on suspicion of links with the insurgents.

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Kelley: Lawsuits could claim negligence for service not reporting conviction

FROM FRONT PAGE

Having cleared an FBI background check, Kelley bought an AR-556 rifle from a San Antonio gun store that authorities say he used to kill 25 people, including numerous children and a pregnant woman, and wound 20 more.

The military's failure to enter Kelley's conviction potentially constitutes negligence. Lawsuits against the government that claim negligence are allowed to proceed in court.

"We believe there's a good legal claim against the Air Force for their failure to report," said Jamal Alsaif, a partner in an Austin, Texas-based law firm that claims to have won the largest negligence verdict ever against the Air Force — \$44 million — in a medical malpractice case. "Had they done so, Kelley would not have been able to purchase the weapon he used."

"This was an obvious duty to report foreseeable danger. They had unique access to report, they didn't, and I would like to know why."

The Federal Torts Claims Act prevents lawsuits against the government for harm resulting from discretionary or policy decisions. For example, the commanding general who allowed a jury rather than the judge to sentence Kelley — resulting in his getting only a year in prison and a bad-conduct discharge rather than a more appropriate longer sentence and dishonorable discharge — was "an incredible fool," Christensen said. "But you couldn't sue him for that because that was discretionary."

But reporting the case to the FBI database was not discretionary. "It was required by law," Christensen said.

Plaintiffs in FTCA cases must also show that the harm caused by the negligence was foreseeable.

"I think it's clearly foreseeable Kelley would commit an act of violence. The threats he's made against his wife and his commanders — they knew that," Christensen said.

OSI also was aware of allegations that Kelley had pointed a gun at his wife and had access to weapons, even though that charge had been dropped as part of a plea agreement.

Harding said that Air Force officials for at least a decade had been talking seriously about the importance of entering domestic violence convictions into the FBI

database and that it wasn't clear why that hadn't been done.

"If he's assaulted his wife and broke the skull of his stepson ... why would they not follow the rules?" Harding said. "How much do they care about it?"

At the end of last year, the Defense Department had only one domestic violence conviction in one of the FBI's main gun background check databases, according to FBI records. Nearly 11,000 dishonorable discharge records — another category that precludes firearms possession — were entered.

"It's the Air Force that's on the hook, but it appears all the other services had issues," Harding said.

The Air Force and the Pentagon have recently initiated audits to determine if other required records of domestic violence and felony convictions have been entered into other FBI databases. If they haven't and the services were entering only dishonorable discharge records, thousands of servicemembers and former servicemembers could be illegally buying firearms.

Survivors and family members of those killed at the church can go directly to court but must first bring an administrative claim against the Air Force. Cases can be resolved at that point.

If the claim is denied or a settlement amount isn't agreed on, plaintiffs could then file in a Texas federal court within two years of the incident.

Christensen said it's likely that the Air Force would try to settle early on. "First, it's the right thing to do," he said, and would spare families from a painful trial process.

"Second, the last thing they'd want is for this to be in court," he said. "They'd be open to discovery and a lot of things would come to light about their cavalier attitude. And there's the potential for a huge payout, depending on Texas law," he said.

Federal law precludes punitive damages in military cases. But plaintiffs may get damages for loss of companionship and pain and suffering, in addition to compensation for loss of income and medical and burial expenses.

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US soldier dies in Iraq in noncombat incident

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — A soldier with the 101st Airborne Division died in Iraq from what the Department of Defense said were injuries sustained during a non-combat retained incident.

The Department of Defense said in a news release Sunday that Chief Warrant Officer 2

Lee M. Smith, 35, of Arlington, Texas, died Nov. 11 at Camp Taji. Smith was assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Campbell. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, a combined joint task force focused on combating Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

The incident is under investigation.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

Calif. plant gears up to build B-21 bombers

BY RALPH VARTABEDIAN,
W.J. HENNIGAN
AND SAMANTHA MASUNAGA
Los Angeles Times

A once-empty parking lot at Northrop Grumman Corp.'s top secret aircraft plant in Palmdale, Calif., is now jammed with cars that pour in during the predawn hours.

More than 1,000 new employees are working, for the time being, in rows of temporary trailers, a dozen tan tents and a huge assembly hangar at the desert site near the edge of urban Los Angeles County.

It is here that Northrop is building the Air Force's new B-21 bomber, a stealthy, bat-winged jet that is being designed to slip behind any adversary's air defense system to deliver devastating airstrikes for decades to come. The Pentagon plans to buy 100 of the bombers by the mid-2030s for at least \$80 billion, though the exact amount is classified.

Northrop won the bomber contract in 2015, but the pace of activity is increasing sharply under a budget from the Air Force that has reached \$2 billion for this fiscal year.

Construction crews are getting ready to add 1 million square feet to the plant, a 50 percent increase over what is already a huge facility.

The project marks a sharp turnaround in the fortunes of the Southern California aerospace industry, which has been atrophying since the end of the Cold War. It was widely assumed that the region would never again be home to large aircraft manufacturing, and now it has one of the biggest projects ever. The program is breathing new life into an industry that once defined the Southern California economy.

The bomber, called "Raider," is expected to become Northrop's largest cash cow, which could run for two decades if it does not encounter technical or political setbacks.

Northrop has 3,000 employees at the Palmdale plant and is still hiring rapidly. By late 2019, the operation will have 5,200 employees at the site, Kevin Mitchell, deputy vice president of global operations, said recently at a Lancaster Chamber of Commerce meeting.

The facility also produces Northrop's high-altitude surveillance drones, the Global Hawk for the Air Force and the closely related Triton for the Navy, and the center fuselage for Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Company officials declined to be interviewed about the B-21, citing Defense Department restrictions.



SLOBODAN LEKIC/Stars and Stripes

Monaco's tiny army, the Carabiniers du Prince, take part in a change-of-guard ceremony in September. The Carabiniers are equipped and trained to handle everything from soccer riots to terrorist attacks.

Monaco's military tiny but still packs a punch

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

MONACO — Every day just before noon, tourists throng to the square in front of the salmon-pink prince's palace to watch the traditional changing of the guard ceremony.

"They're so cute. I love these 'mouse-that-roared' soldiers," said Jane Moore, a visitor from Canada. "Well worth a visit."

Few of the spectators watching the ranks of troops — in their white uniforms in summer and blue in winter — realize they belong to a real army, albeit the second-smallest in the world.

With less than 1 square mile of space, Monaco is larger only than the Vatican — the world's tiniest sovereign nation. But its 37,000 inhabitants make it the most densely populated sovereign nation on earth.

It is also arguably the richest, with an average per capita income of nearly \$180,000. It has the highest proportion of millionaires and billionaires — 1 in 3 residents, officials say.

Monaco is perhaps best known for its casino and the Formula One race through the streets of the principality. A world-famous harbor features dozens of the most expensive yachts anywhere. Ferraris, Aston Martins and Rolls-Royces create traffic jams in its narrow streets. Luxurious tower blocks dwarf its old center, making Monaco the planet's most expensive property market.

To protect all that wealth and the glamorous lifestyle of its residents, Monaco has one of the largest security forces in the world on a per-capita and per-area basis, with about one soldier or policeman for every 100 residents.

The Prince's Company of Carabiniers numbers 119 members of all ranks. Together with the 135-strong militarized fire and civil defense corps, the Carabiniers form Monaco's defense forces.

Separately from the military, there are about 515 police officers and a small coast guard, whose main duty seems to be regulating yacht movements into and out of the harbor.

An exhibit documenting the history of the Carabiniers is located inside Prince Albert's palace. It features historical uniforms and weapons of the unit.

It also documents the presence of the U.S. Navy in the mini-state in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, until French president Charles de Gaulle booted out the 6th Fleet from the nearby port of Villefranche-sur-Mer in 1967. Navy officers often were invited to Monaco to attend official functions with Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace Kelly, the current monarch's parents. The couple also were regular guests aboard U.S. Navy ships and frequently visited with American families living there.

Though the constitutional monarchy relies on France, which borders it from three sides, for defense, its army is not a ceremonial force. The Carabiniers are armed with some real firepower: M16A2 automatic rifles and infantry fighting vehicles such as the MOWAG Piranha V.

While their main duty is to protect Prince Albert II and government institutions, the troops also are trained and equipped to deal with more serious challenges, such as terrorist attacks.

Its soldiers and noncommissioned officers are either Monegasque or French citizens, but the officers are all French. Traditionally, many of the rank and file come from villages and towns near Monaco, officials say. A colonel is the force's highest-ranking officer.

The average age of the servicemen is 35. Enlisted men sign five-year contracts and can renew them until they are 50, said Thomas Blanchy, a spokesman for the palace. NCOs may remain in service until age 55.

"Serving here is much more interesting than in the French army because the duties are much more varied," said a Carabinier standing guard at the palace, who asked not to be named. "There are so few of us that everyone has to be trained and must execute multiple roles."

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Recruits: Expert says mental health conditions are 'red flag'

FROM FRONT PAGE

But accepting recruits with those mental health conditions in their past carries risks, according to Elspeth Ritchie, a psychiatrist who retired from the Army as a colonel in 2010 and is an expert on waivers for military service. People with a history of mental health problems are more likely to have those issues surface than those who do not, she said.

"It is a red flag," she said. "The question is, how much of a red flag is it?"

While bipolar disorder can be kept under control with medication, self-mutilation — in which people slash their skin with sharp instruments — may signal deeper mental health issues, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, which is published by the American Psychiatric Association.

A self-mutilation occurs in a military setting, Ritchie said, it could be disruptive for a unit. A soldier slashing his or her own skin could result in blood on the floor, the assumption of a suicide attempt and the potential need for medical evacuation from a war zone or other austere place.

A legacy of problems

Accepting recruits with poor psychiatric records can cause problems. In 2006, for example, an Iraqi girl was raped and her family was killed by U.S. soldiers, one of whom required waivers for minor criminal activity and a poor educational background to join the Army.

Memos and documents obtained by USA Today outline the hurdles that a potential recruit must clear to join the Army.

Guidance for screening potential recruits with histories that include self-mutilation make clear that the applicant must provide "appropriate documentation" to obtain the waiver, according to a September memo to commanders. Those requirements include a detailed statement from the applicant, medical records, evidence from an employer if the injury was job-related, photos submitted by the recruiter and a psychiatric evaluation and "clearance."

Slides for military officials who screen recruits show examples of people whose arms, legs and hands have been scarred by self-mutilation.

"For all waivers," one memo states, "the burden of proof is on the applicant to provide a clear and meritorious case for why a

waiver should be considered."

Taylor said many "meritorious cases" had been found of highly qualified applicants who had been disqualified because of events that had occurred when they were young children.

"With the additional data available, Army officials can now consider applicant as a whole person, allowing a series of Army leaders and medical professionals to review the case fully to assess the applicant's physical limitations or medical conditions and their possible impact upon the applicant's ability to complete training and finish an Army career," Taylor said. "These waivers are not considered lightly."

Under the right circumstances, a waiver for self-mutilation could be appropriate, Ritchie said.

"I can see a rationale that that should be a waiver, but could be a waiver," she said.

Unknown number

The Army did not respond to a question of how many waivers, but have been issued since the policy was changed.

Data reported by USA Today in October show how the Army met its recruiting goals by accepting more marginally qualified recruits.

In fiscal year 2017, the active-duty Army recruited nearly 69,000 soldiers, and 1.9 percent belonged to what is known as Category Four. That refers to troops who score in the lowest category on military aptitude tests.

In 2016, 0.6 percent of Army recruits came from Category Four. The Pentagon mandates that the services accept no more than 4 percent of recruiting classes from Category Four. In addition, waivers for marijuana use, illegal while in uniform, jumped from 191 in 2016 to 506 in 2017. Eight states have legalized recreational use of marijuana.

Recruiting generally is more challenging for the services when the economy is strong. The Army has responded by offering more bonuses to those who sign up for service. In fiscal year 2017, it paid out \$244 million in bonuses, up from \$424 million in 2016. In 2014, that figure was only \$8.2 million. Some recruits can qualify for bonuses of \$40,000.

The Army's decision to rescind the ban for a history of mental health problems is in part a reaction to its difficulties in recruiting, Ritchie said.

"You're widening your pool of applicants," she said.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

US, Niger teams to investigate ambush site

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — U.S. Africa Command says it has sent a joint team with the Niger military to the village of Tongo Tongo to investigate the Oct. 4 attack by extremists that left four American and four Nigerian soldiers dead.

AFRICOM said Sunday that the on-site investigation is part of a wider review across the U.S., Africa and Europe and by multiple agencies to determine how the attack took place.

The U.S. command team is interviewing residents around Tongo Tongo, visiting relevant areas and retracing steps taken before the ambush.

The Pentagon has said its investigation won't be finished until at least January.

Questions have arisen over whether the soldiers' commando unit was carrying out its assigned mission when it was ambushed about 120 miles north of Niamey.

Trial begins over attack on Istanbul airport

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — The trial of dozens of suspects accused of involvement in last year's deadly attack on Istanbul's main international airport began Monday.

Forty-six defendants, with suspected links to Islamic State, are on trial for murder, attempting to overthrow constitutional order and membership in a terrorist group, among other charges. The prosecutor has demanded life sentences.

On June 28, 2016, three suspected ISIS militants armed with automatic weapons stormed Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul and detonated their suicide vests, killing 45 people and injuring 163 others.

The defendants include Russian nationals, among them Chechens, along with Algerian, Tunisian, Egyptian, Syrian and Turkish citizens, according to details of the indictment reported by the official Anadolu Agency.

The indictment identified the deceased attackers as Vadim Osmanov and Rakhim Bulgarov, while the third man's name remains unknown. Anadolu said the perpetrators made reconnaissance trips to Ataturk airport on at least three occasions before the attack.

The trial is taking place in Silivri, on the outskirts of Istanbul by a large prison complex.

US airstrikes in Somalia



SOURCES: Maps4News/HERE, AP NGA ANA-RAW/Stars and Stripes

US drones hit militants in Somalia

By ABDI GULED

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — U.S. forces say they have carried out three drone strikes within 24 hours in Somalia, stepping up their campaign against the Islamic extremist rebels of al-Shabab and Islamic State.

The strikes by unmanned drones killed several extremist fighters, a spokeswoman for the U.S. military command in Africa told The Associated Press on Sunday. With these three attacks, the U.S. now has carried out 26 attacks in Somalia against extremist targets in 2017, she said.

The latest U.S. strikes were carried out in coordination with Somalia's government, she said.

The first strike happened Saturday at approximately 4:30 p.m. local Somalia time and it killed one fighter for the extremist group al-Shabab, said a U.S. Africa Command statement. The strike occurred near Gaduud, about 250 miles southwest of the capital, Mogadishu, it said.

The U.S. strike came after al-Shabab attacked a convoy of U.S. and Somali forces, it said. "We assess no civilians were anywhere near the site," said the spokeswoman. "We take all measures during the targeting process to painstakingly ensure that civilian casualties and collateral damages are avoided and that we comply with the principles of the Law of Armed Conflict."

The second strike occurred Sunday at approximately 3 a.m. against al-Shabab in the Lower Shabelle region, about 40 miles west of the capital, Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab, the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa, has been blamed for the massive truck bombing in Mogadishu last month that killed more than 350 people. It was Somalia's worst-ever attack and one of the world's deadliest in years.

Al-Shabab has pledged allegiance to al-Qaida "and is dedicated to providing safe haven for terrorist attacks throughout the world," said the spokeswoman, adding that al-Shabab "has publicly committed to planning and conducting attacks against the U.S. and our partners in the region."

The third strike was against ISIS in Somalia's northern Puntland area, she said. It happened about 9 a.m. Sunday.

It was the second round of U.S. strikes against ISIS in Somalia this month.

ISIS in Somalia could be a 'significant threat'

By ABDI GULED AND CARA ANNA

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Islamic State's growing presence in Somalia could become a "significant threat" if it attracts fighters fleeing collapsing strongholds in Syria and Iraq, experts say, and already it seems to be influencing local al-Shabab extremists to adopt tactics like beheadings.

The U.S. military this month carried out its first drone strikes against ISIS fighters in Somalia, raising questions about the strength of the group that emerged just two years ago. A second strike targeted the fighters on Sunday, with the U.S. saying "some terrorists" were killed.

ISIS burst into public view in Somalia late last year as dozens of armed men seized the port town of Qandala in the northern Puntland region, calling it the seat of the "Islamic Caliphate in Somalia." They beheaded a number of civilians, prompting more than 20,000 residents to flee, and held the town for weeks until they were forced out by Somali troops, who were backed by U.S. military advisers.

Since then, ISIS fighters have stormed a hotel popular with government officials in Puntland's commercial hub of Bossaso and have claimed their first suicide attack, at a Bossaso security checkpoint.

This long-fractured Horn of Africa nation with its weak central government already struggles to combat al-Shabab, an ally of al-Qaida that is blamed for last month's truck bombing in the capital, Mogadishu, that killed more than 350 in the country's deadliest attack.

The Trump administration early this year approved expanded military operations in Somalia as it puts counterterrorism at the top of its Africa agenda. The U.S. military on Sunday told The Associated Press it had carried out 26 airstrikes this year against al-Shabab and now ISIS.

For more than a decade, al-Shabab has sought a Somalia ruled by Islamic law. Two years ago, some of its fighters began to split away to join ISIS. Some small pro-ISIS cells have been reported in al-Shabab's southern Somalia stronghold, but the most prominent one and the target of U.S. airstrikes is in the north in Puntland, a hotbed of arms smuggling and a short sail from Yemen.

The ISIS fighters in Puntland are now thought to number about 200, according to a U.N. report released this month by experts monitoring sanctions on Somalia. The experts traveled to the region and interviewed several imprisoned ISIS extremists. The U.N. experts documented at least one shipment of small arms, including machine guns, delivered to the ISIS fighters from Yemen. "The majority of arms supplied to the ISIL faction originate in Yemen," ISIS defectors told them, using an alternate acronym for the group.

A phone number previously used by ISIS' U.S.-sanctioned leader, Abdulqadir Mumin, showed "repeated contact" with a phone number seized by the fighters, a Yemen-based man who reportedly serves as an intermediary with senior ISIS leaders in Iraq and Syria, the experts' report says.

While ISIS in Somalia has a small number of foreign fighters, the Puntland government's weak control over the rural Bari region, where ISIS is based, "renders it a potential haven" for foreign ISIS fighters, the report says.

ISIS' growing presence brought an

angry response from al-Shabab, which has several thousand fighters and holds vast rural areas in southern and central Somalia, in some cases within a few dozen miles of Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab arrested dozens of members accused of sympathizing with the ISIS faction and reportedly executed several, according to an upcoming article for the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point by the center's Jason Warner and Caleb Weiss, with the Long War Journal.

Civilians in areas under al-Shabab control have suffered. "Possibly in response to the growing prominence of ISIL, al-Shabab imposed more violent punishments, including amputations, beheading and stoning, on those found guilty of spying, desertion or breaches of sharia law," the new U.N. report says.

Some Somali officials say al-Shabab has begun to de-escalate its hostility against the ISIS fighters, as its initial concerns about rapid growth have eased. Al-Shabab has begun to see ISIS in Somalia as a supplementary power that could help its fight against Puntland authorities, said Mohamed Ahmed, a senior counterterrorism official there.

Officials also believe that ISIS has difficulty finding the money to expand. Its fighters are paid between nothing and \$50 per month, the U.N. report says. "For them, getting arms is a lot easier than funds because of the tight anti-terrorism finance regulations," said Yusuf Mo'hamud, a Somali security expert.

For now, no one but al-Shabab has the ability to carry out the kind of massive bombing that rocked Mogadishu last month. For the Puntland-based ISIS fighters even to reach the capital, they would have to pass numerous checkpoints the U.S. and Somali security forces or al-Shabab itself.

That said, two ISIS fighters who defected from al-Shabab and later were captured told the U.N. experts they had received airline tickets from Mogadishu to Puntland's Galkayo as part of ISIS' "increasingly sophisticated recruitment methods," the U.N. report says.

Scenarios that could lead to ISIS fighters' gaining power include the weakening of al-Shabab by the new wave of U.S. drone strikes, a new offensive by the 22,000-strong African Union force in Somalia, or al-Shabab infighting, says the upcoming article by Warner and Weiss.

On the other hand, "it is a strong possibility that given the small size of the cells and waning fortunes of Islamic State globally, the cells might collapse entirely if their leadership is decapitated."

That's exactly what the U.S. military's first airstrikes against the Islamic State fighters this month were aiming to do, Somali officials told the AP.

The U.S. says it is still assessing the results.

While ISIS in Somalia has a small number of foreign fighters, the Puntland government's weak control over the rural Bari region, where ISIS is based, "renders it a potential haven" for foreign ISIS fighters, according to a U.N. report.

NATION



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mannequins are arranged to train medical students in CPR in Jackson, Miss.

Study suggests women less likely to receive CPR from bystanders

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Women are less likely than men to get CPR from a bystander and more likely to die, a new study suggests, and researchers think the reluctance to touch a woman's chest might be one reason.

Only 39 percent of women suffering cardiac arrest in a public place were given CPR, compared with 45 percent of men, and men were 23 percent more likely to survive, the study found.

It involved nearly 20,000 cases around the country and is the first to examine gender differences in receiving heart help from the public as opposed to professional responders.

"It can be kind of daunting thinking about pushing hard and fast on the center of a woman's chest," and some people may fear they are hurting her, said Audrey Blewer, a University of Pennsylvania researcher who led the study.

Rescuers also may worry about moving a woman's clothing to get better access or touching breasts to do CPR, but doing it properly "shouldn't entail that," said another study leader, U. Penn's Dr. Benjamin Abella. "You put your hands on the sternum, which is the middle of the chest. In theory, you're touching in between the breasts."

The study was discussed Sunday at an American Heart Association conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops pumping, usually because of a rhythm

It can be kind of daunting thinking about pushing hard and fast on the center of a woman's chest.

Audrey Blewer
University of Pennsylvania researcher

problem. More than 350,000 Americans each year suffer one in settings other than a hospital. About 90 percent of them die, but CPR can double or triple survival odds.

"This is not a time to be squeamish because it's a life-and-death situation," Abella said.

Researchers had no information on rescuers or why they may have been less likely to help women. But no gender difference was seen in CPR rates for people who were stricken at home, where a rescuer is more likely to know the person needing help.

The findings suggest that CPR training may need to be improved. Even that may be subtly biased toward males — practice mannequins (they're not called "woman-nequins") are usually male torsos, Blewer said.

"All of us are going to have to take a closer look at this" gender issue, said the Mayo Clinic's Dr. Roger White, who co-directs the paramedic program for the city of Rochester, Minn. He said he has long worried that large breasts may impede proper placement of defibrillator pads if women need a shock to restore normal heart rhythm.

The Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health funded the study.

Men did not have a gender advantage in a second study discussed on Sunday. It found the odds of suffering cardiac arrest during or soon after sex are very low, but higher for men than women.

Previous studies have looked at sex and heart attacks, but those are caused by a clot suddenly restricting blood flow, and people usually have time to get to a hospital and be treated, said Dr. Sumeet Chugh, a cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles. He and other researchers wanted to know how sex affected the odds of cardiac arrest, a different problem that's more often fatal.

They studied records on more than 4,500 cardiac arrests over 13 years in the Portland, Ore., area. Only 34 were during or within an hour of having sex, and 32 of those were in men. Most already were on medicines for heart conditions, so their risk was elevated to start with.

"It's a very awkward situation, and a very horrifying situation to be one of the two people who survives," but more would survive if CPR rates were higher, Chugh said.

Results of the study were published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is stepping into a free speech fight over California's attempt to regulate anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers.

The justices said Monday they will hear an appeal from centers that complained that a new state law forces them to provide information about abortion and other services.

Lower courts had allowed the law to take effect. Unlicensed centers also must inform clients of their status.

A federal appeals court in New York struck down similar provisions of a New York City ordinance, although it upheld the requirement for unlicensed centers to say that they lack a license.

The free speech issue has arisen in different contexts around the country.

In 2014, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond, Va., struck down a North

Carolina law that required abortion providers to show and describe an ultrasound to the pregnant woman.

The court said the law is "ideological in intent" and violates doctors' free speech rights.

In February, the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Florida could not prohibit doctors from talking about gun safety with their patients, upending parts of a 2011 state law. Under the law, doctors faced fines and the possible loss of their medical licenses for discussing guns with patients.

The abortion rights group NARAL Pro-Choice California was a prime sponsor of the California law. NARAL estimates that 4,000 crisis pregnancy centers operate in the U.S.

The California centers complained that both their speech and religious freedom rights are violated by the law. The justices will review only the free speech claim.

The case will be argued early next year.

Young mayor dies hours after resigning his post

Associated Press

POTTSVILLE, Pa. — A Pennsylvania mayor has died at age 23, hours after resigning his post.

Brandon Wentz resigned last Wednesday night because he and his family had moved out of the small Schuylkill County borough of Mount Carbon, his mother said. A deputy coroner pronounced Wentz dead Thursday morning. Officials haven't said how he died.

Wentz was appointed mayor of Mount Carbon in February 2016. He followed his mother and grandmother into public service. His grandmother was the first woman to be mayor of Mount Carbon, and his mother served on the council.

"We were brought up to give

back to our community by my parents, and I have passed it on to my children," his mother, Janel Wentz-Firestone, told The Associated Press.

Wentz was a student at Kutztown University who aspired to be a writer. He told WNEP-TV around the time he took office that he wanted to fight blight in his town. Mount Carbon, which has a population of about 90, is 100 miles from Philadelphia.

"I would love for him to be known for his big heart and his passion for reading and writing. As for being mayor, he did enjoy the opportunity to serve the borough residents and gained a lot of experience," his mother said. "We are all heartbroken."

An investigation into Wentz's death is underway.

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STARS AND STRIPES.



NATION

Las Vegas ramps up security for annual marathon

BY REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas ramped up security for the annual Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, which was the first major outdoor event on the Strip since the Oct. 1 mass shooting.

The city posted snipers and used a helicopter to watch for danger as tens of thousands of people participated in the race. Many wore T-shirts that read "Vegas Strong" in memory of the attack.

Some runners who picked up their race packages Thursday at a convention center mentioned defiance, strength and resilience among their reasons to take part in the event less than two months after the mass shooting rattled a city known for its partying atmosphere.

With an American flag pinned to his shirt, Ben Rumph, 80, who lives in the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson, said he never considered canceling his participation after the shooting. The U.S. Navy

veteran had trained year-round to run the half-marathon for the 10th time.

"The shooting was an entity, an event, by itself. I was going to run whether that happened or not," Rumph said. "I'm a veteran. I stood up and raised my hand that I would either kill some people or be killed to protect what we have in this country. My decision is to do the same thing today. I don't mean to go kill or anything like that, but to stand up for that principle."

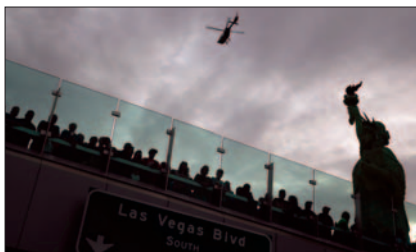
Another half-marathon participant, Esther Reincke, ran to honor a friend who was killed during the massacre. Reincke said Cameron Robinson, 28, who she described as a happy and "wicked smart" guy, had been part of her team in a 200-mile relay race last year. They met while working for the city of Las Vegas.

"It is still hard to believe not only that this event happened in our city but for it to hit home that close. He was one of our co-workers and a friend of mine," said Reincke, 60. "I'm running



PHOTOS BY JOHN LOCHER/AP

Above: Runners start the Rock 'n' Roll Las Vegas Marathon along the Strip on Sunday. **Below:** A police helicopter flies overhead as people watch the start of the annual event.



because Cameron can't. He loved running, and that's kind of my connection to him. When I get my Vegas Strong shirt, I'm going to

have his name somewhere front or back."

The start of the marathon is usually outside Mandalay Bay,

where Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a 32nd-floor suite. Because of security concerns, the start line was moved a mile north.

Capt. Andrew Walsh said about 350 officers were working and were aided by a helicopter. Large city vehicles were positioned at key intersections to prevent anyone from driving onto the course.

Gilles Rubio prevailed on the men's side Sunday with a blistering time of 02:38.04. Americans Karel Burger and Tyler Pence finished in second and third place, respectively, with times of 02:41.27 and 02:43.55.

Hind, also an American, won the women's field with a time of 02:55.19.

Global carbon pollution rises after 3 straight flat years

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Global carbon pollution rose this year after three straight years when levels of the heat-trapping gas didn't go up at all, scientists reported Monday.

Preliminary figures project that worldwide carbon dioxide emissions are up about 2 percent this year, according to an international team of scientists. Most of the increase came from China.

The report by the Global Carbon Project team dashed hopes that emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas had peaked.

"We hoped that we had turned the corner. ... We haven't," said study co-author Rob Jackson, an Earth scientist at Stan-

ford University.

Carbon dioxide emissions rose steadily and slowly starting in the late 1880s with the Industrial Revolution, then took off dramatically in the 1950s.

In the last three years, levels had stabilized at about 40 billion tons of carbon dioxide. Estimates for 2017 put it at about 40.8 billion tons. Sixty years ago, the world speeded only 9.2 billion tons.

"It's a bit staggering," said co-author Ralph Keeling, a Scripps Institution of Oceanography scientist, noting in an email that levels have increased fourfold since he was born in the 1950s. "We race headlong into the unknown," he said.

Man-made carbon dioxide is causing more than 90 percent of global warming

since 1950, U.S. scientists reported this month.

This year's increase was mostly spurred by a 3.5 percent jump in Chinese carbon pollution, said study co-author Glen Peters, a Norwegian scientist. Declines in the United States (0.4 percent) and Europe (0.2 percent) were smaller than in previous years. India, the No. 3 carbon-polluting nation, went up 2 percent.

The 2017 estimate comes to an average of 2.57 million pounds of carbon dioxide spewing into the air every second.

The study was published Monday and was presented in Bonn, Germany, during climate talks, at which leaders are trying to come up with rules for the 2015 Paris deal. The goal is to limit temperature rise to

3.6 degrees Fahrenheit since preindustrial times, but it's already warmed half that amount.

"It was tough enough, and if this paper is indicative of long-term trends, it just got tougher," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer, who wasn't part of the team of 76 scientists who wrote the report.

While he called the study authoritative, Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann said he sees no need to do figures for 2017 that are not complete, saying it may be "jumping the gun a bit."

The top five carbon polluting countries are China, the United States, India, Russia and Japan. Europe taken as a whole would rank third.

Committee chairman: House won't agree to nix property tax deduction

BY KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House's tax-writing committee is expressing confidence that the chamber won't go along with the Senate's proposal to eliminate the deduction for property taxes, setting up a major flashpoint as Republicans aim to put a tax cut bill on President Donald Trump's desk before Christmas.

The GOP is moving urgently on the first rewrite of the U.S. tax code in three decades, but key dif-

ferences promise to complicate the effort. Among the biggest differences in the two bills that have emerged is that the House bill allows homeowners to deduct up to \$10,000 in property taxes, while the Senate proposal unveiled by GOP leaders last week eliminates the entire deduction.

The deduction is particularly important to residents in states with high property values or tax rates, such as New Jersey, Illinois, California and New York. Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means

Committee, said he worked with lawmakers in those states to ensure the House bill "delivers this relief" and that he was committed to ensuring it stays in the final package.

"It's important to make sure that people keep more of what they earn, even in these high-tax states," Brady said during an appearance on "Fox News Sunday."

The Senate's tax-writing committee will wade through its newly unveiled measure starting Monday. The legislation in the House and Senate carry high political

stakes for Trump and Republican leaders in Congress, who view passage of tax cuts as critical to the GOP's success at the polls next year.

The House is expected to vote on its measure Thursday. The House Ways and Means Committee approved it last week on a party-line 24-16 vote.

Democrats are solidly opposed to the GOP revamp, so the Republicans must find agreement among themselves to have any hope of passage.

Both the House and Senate

versions of the legislation would eliminate deductions for state and local income taxes and sales taxes paid. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in response to Brady's pledge that Republicans should fully restore what is referred to as the SALT deduction or millions of middle-class families would end up paying more federal income taxes, not less.

"The House's so-called 'compromise' would be saying to the middle class we'll only chop off four of your fingers instead of all five," Schumer said in a statement.

NATION

States' partisan divide grows with mixed results

By RACHEL LA CORTE
AND DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Democrats have hit the political trifecta in New Jersey and Washington state, seizing complete control of the governor's office and legislative chambers in the 2017 elections.

Time to let fly with a big liberal agenda? Most likely, but a few modest steps to the left is probably more realistic.

In a decade that has seen a resurgence of American political polarization, two-thirds of all state governments now will be fully controlled by either Democrats or Republicans. That rivals the predominant levels of state-party governance last seen in the post-World War II era.

Yet recent experience has shown that new Republican or Democratic majorities can still splinter among factions of moderates and hard-core ideologues. Even when a party bands together for bold initiatives, the results can be mixed.

Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee, of Washington, already appears to be lowering partisan expectations as he prepares to work with a new Democratic-led Senate and House that will have majorities of just a few seats over

Republicans.

"With very closely held margins like this, neither party controls the Legislature," Inslee told The Associated Press in a phone interview while on a trade trip to Zurich, Switzerland. "I'm hopeful more bipartisan votes will occur."

In New Jersey, newly elected Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy will be paired with a legislature that is roughly two-thirds Democrats and has been at odds with Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican forced out of office by term limits.

Democrats will have full control in eight states, all touching the Pacific or Atlantic oceans, when the newly elected officials are sworn into office. Republicans will have full control of 25 states. Sixteen will have politically divided governments, most pitting legislatures led by one party against a governor of another. The Nebraska Legislature is officially nonpartisan.

Just five states — Alaska, Colorado, Maine, New York and potentially Virginia, depending on the outcome of several too-close-to-call House races — could have functional control of their legislative chambers split among the two major parties. That's slightly less than the historic norm, according to an Associated Press analysis

of data dating to 1900 provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

This year, three states with new Republican governing trifectas made a strong push to enact right-to-work laws barring mandatory union fees in workplace contracts. Legislation passed quickly in Kentucky and Missouri, although opponents gathered enough petitions to suspend Missouri's new law pending a voter referendum in 2018.

In New Hampshire, the right-to-work bill passed the Senate but failed in the House as 32 of 223 Republican representatives bucked the new governor on an issue that had been part of the GOP platform. Not only did the House kill the bill, it moved to "indefinitely postpone" it, meaning no similar bills can be debated for the remainder of the two-year session.

California is often cited as the gold standard of Democratic strength, with supermajorities in the Legislature and control of the governor's office and every other statewide office.

Democrats there have picked fights with President Donald Trump and advanced a decidedly liberal agenda. But some of the harshest critiques of the Legislature have come from the left.

A plan to eliminate health insurance

and provide government-funded coverage to all has stalled in the California Assembly, leading some Democratic activists to launch a longshot bid to unseat Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

Democrats in Washington state may be constrained by political and legislative realities. They are scheduled to have only a 60-day session in 2018, and the agenda will include passing a budget for state construction projects that stalled this year amid disputes in the politically split Legislature. Then Democrats will be forced to defend their new majority when legislative seats are back on the ballot in November 2018.

Washington Republican Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler said voters have benefited from having "checks and balances" inherent in a split Legislature and warned that "fiscal responsibility is in jeopardy" with Democrats in full control.

But Democratic leaders said a major tax plan, such as a new capital gains tax, is unlikely in the near future. More likely are incremental proposals to close some tax exemptions and expand environmental protections.

GOP's Senate leader says he believes Moore accusers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top Republican in the Senate said Monday that GOP candidate Roy Moore should quit his Alabama race amid allegations he had sexual contact with a 14-year-old girl and pursued romantic relationships with other teenage girls decades ago. "I believe the women," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The Kentucky Republican said flatly that Moore should step aside for another GOP candidate days after The Washington Post report that rocked the campaign for what the GOP had considered an inevitable special election win on Dec. 12. When the story first broke last Thursday, McConnell had said Moore should step aside if the allegations were true.

McConnell, questioned at a tax event in Louisville, said a write-in effort by another candidate was a possibility.

"That's an option we're looking at... whether or not there is someone who can mount a write-in campaign successfully," McConnell said. Asked specifically about current Sen. Luther Strange, the loser to Moore in a party primary, he said, "We'll see."

On the Democratic side, one of the Senate's moderate members is helping Moore's challenger raise campaign funds, underscoring the party's wary approach in an Alabama race that until recently was viewed as a virtually certain win for the GOP.

The fundraising bid by Sen. Joe

Donnelly, D-Ind., doesn't mention allegations about Moore.

In a further indication of Democrats' caution, the party's No. 2 Senate leader, Richard Durbin, dodged a question Sunday about what the Senate should do if Moore is elected. He tried to shift the focus back to Republicans.

"President Trump is the leader of the Republican Party in America. It's his responsibility to step forward and say more and do more when it comes to the situation in Alabama," Durbin, D-Ill., said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Moore said a lawsuit will be filed over the Post report that detailed the allegations against him.

While pressure to quit the race four weeks before Election Day intensified from within the Republican Party, Moore assured supporters Sunday night at a Huntsville, Ala., gym that the article was "fake news" and "a desperate attempt to stop my political campaign."

Moore said allegations that he was involved with a minor child are "untrue" and said the newspaper "will be sued," drawing a round of applause. The former judge also questioned why such allegations would be leveled for the first time so close to the special election in spite of his decades in public life.

The Post story quoted four women by name, including the woman who alleged the sexual contact at 14, and had two dozen other sources.

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NATION



ALAN DIAZ/AP

Javier Gonzalez, a Puerto Rican who moved to Florida after Hurricane Maria, speaks Wednesday in Hialeah, Fla.

In Fla., Puerto Rican voters draw attention after Maria

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

MIAMI — Javier Gonzalez has joined a human tide of more than 130,000 U.S. citizens arriving in Florida since Hurricane Maria wrecked Puerto Rico, grateful for a place to start over but resenting how their island has been treated since the disaster.

More than 1 million Puerto Ricans — about 5 percent of Florida's population — already call the state home, and given the outrage many feel over President Donald Trump's handling of the storm, political observers say this voting bloc could loosen the Republican Party's hold on this battleground state.

Gonzalez, 38, saw the storm destroy the restaurant he opened with his father five years ago. Without power or reliable water, he became violently ill from food poisoning for three weeks. Finally, he packed his bags, determined to make his future in Miami instead.

"There is resentment, and we feel abandoned compared to Texas and Florida," Gonzalez said. "We were desperate for help."

Like any Puerto Rican, Gonzalez can vote in all elections now that he's moved to the mainland. He doesn't plan to register for any party, but he follows the news and understands their platforms. He's aware of Trump's tweets.

"It's not right that we've fought from World War I to Vietnam and Afghanistan, and that the first thing the president says is, 'You have a large debt, big problems and have cost us millions,'" Gonzalez said.

Puerto Ricans are not the gift to the Republican Party that the anti-Castro Cuban diaspora historically has been. They've tended to favor Democrats, given their support for public education and social services. About 70 percent of Florida's non-Cuban Latinos voted for Hillary Clinton.

Both parties are courting the new arrivals to Florida, which Trump won last year by just 112,000 votes out of 9.6 million cast.

"There is an intent to grab those who are coming," said Rep. Robert Claitor, a Democrat of Puerto Rican descent who represents

Miami in the Florida House and leads the Miami-Dade Committee for Hurricane Maria Relief.

"A lot of my colleagues say they are not politicizing this, but there is an effort to bring people either to the Democratic or the Republican side," Ascencio said.

Newcomers must register by next July 30 to vote in 2018 for a new governor to replace terminated Republican Gov. Rick Scott and to choose Florida's congressional delegation, now 11 Democrats and 16 Republicans. Democratic U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson also defends his seat next year, and Scott, who has been applauded for helping evacuees, is expected to challenge him in what could be a close race.

Scott set up three disaster-relief centers to help arrivals with drivers' licenses, job searches, and disaster aid applications. Scott also asked education officials to waive public school enrollment rules for evacuated islanders, and to give college-bound evacuees the same tuition breaks state residents get.

Ascencio calls Scott's actions "damage control," given the multimillionaire governor's close relationship with Trump, who offended Puerto Ricans by tweeting they wanted "everything to be done for them" rather than taking responsibility for their own recovery. They also resent Trump's rating of his own disaster response as a "10 out of 10," blaming his administration for delays that exposed their families to illness and misery.

The island still faces a lengthy, painful recovery after the storm took down the entire electrical grid, leaving hospitals in the dark and closing schools for several weeks. Initial projections that 95 percent of the people will have power restored by year's end now look optimistic.

State Rep. Rene Plasencia, a Republican from Orlando, predicts that Scott's warm welcome will leave a bigger impression on the newcomers than any Trump tweets.

"For whatever people think of the president, you have to take into consideration the actions of Governor Scott," said Plasencia, whose mother and wife are from Puerto Rico.

Drop in foreign enrollments less than U.S. colleges feared

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

BOSTON — International enrollments at U.S. colleges have fared better than expected this year, but many schools still fear the country's political climate, according to a national survey.

The Institute of International Education reported Monday that the number of new students coming from abroad fell by an average of 7 percent at nearly 500 colleges and universities surveyed this fall, but said the results from school to school are more mixed than many had feared.

Many schools nevertheless have concerns about the U.S. political climate and fear that it could drive students away.

While 45 percent of schools saw declines in international enrollment, nearly a third said their numbers have increased since last year, the survey found. The remaining 24 percent said they saw no change.

"It's definitely a wake-up call, but by no means is it a crisis, and it does not come anywhere close to the precipitous decline and plummeting of numbers that the entire sector has been predicting," said Rajika Bhandari, head

of research, policy and practice for the nonprofit group based in New York.

The White House's proposed travel bans and separate reports of violence against immigrants had fueled fears of a sharp decline in students coming from abroad. The anxiety spurred many campuses to boost their recruiting efforts, while some launched marketing campaigns meant to make foreign students feel welcome.

Despite the improved outlook, the survey found that half of the 500 colleges still worry the nation's atmosphere could discourage potential students, and 20 percent reported that the climate already has led some students to leave.

"We don't know what the trends are going to look like for next year, but for sure, there are concerns," Bhandari said.

The survey offers only a preview of this year's trends and was released alongside the institute's annual "Open Doors" report, which tracks international students at 3,000 U.S. schools but lags a year behind.

The broader survey covering the last school year found that U.S. colleges hosted a record number of international students

but also saw new enrollment fall 3 percent since 2015, the first decrease in at least six years.

That downturn took place before the presidential election and can be blamed on factors including the rising cost of tuition in the U.S., growing competition from schools in other countries and political factors outside the U.S., the institute's leaders said.

Governments in Brazil and Saudi Arabia, for example, have slashed national programs that helped students study abroad in recent years, fueling a combined 23 percent drop in students from those countries last year.

Students from China and India made up nearly half of all international students last year, reaching a combined 530,000. Their numbers have continued to grow, but at a much slower rate than in previous years. Iran, the only nation in President Donald Trump's travel ban with heavy numbers of students in the U.S., sent 12,600 students here last year, an increase of about 3 percent.

The top states for international students remained unchanged last year, with California topping the list followed by New York, Texas and Massachusetts.

Lawsuit against agency offers new remedy on for-profit college fraud

By MARIA DANILOVA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two women who claim they were defrauded by a for-profit college have sued the Education Department and a private loan servicer in a case their attorneys say could provide a new legal remedy for tens of thousands of students frustrated with the department's inaction on claims seeking loan forgiveness.

The lawsuit, filed Sunday in federal court in New York, comes as the department begins work this week rewriting Obama administration rules designed to boost protections for students defrauded by their schools.

Tina Carr and Yvette Colon had attended Sanford-Brown Institute, a for-profit college in New York, and are seeking to have their student loans erased. Their lawsuit cites federal and state law that prohibits fraud as well as the contract they signed with their school. Previous lawsuits invoked the department's own regulations in their search for loan relief.

Attorneys for the two students say the new approach is necessary because Education Secretary Betsy DeVos has stalled consideration of tens of thousands of similar claims from borrowers.

Colon completed the school's certificate program to work as a

cardiac sonographer, only to learn that her credentials were invalid and that she couldn't transfer her credits to other schools as had been promised, according to the suit. Colon is asking for the cancellation of her four federal and two private loans totaling \$21,000.

Carr trained to be a medical assistant. She said the school lied to her about job placement assistance and the ability to transfer credits. Carr has defaulted on her \$14,500 federal loans and wants the loan forgiven.

"People's rights not to pay for defective products is well established in law, so whatever the Department of Education is or is not doing, the legal rights of borrowers continue to exist and are enforceable against the government just as they are against private parties," said Toby Merrill, a litigator at Harvard University's Project on Predatory Student Lending, which represents defrauded students.

"Yvette and Tina deserve to be able to move on with their lives, and because it's clear that the department doesn't have any intention for doing anything for cheated students, it's necessary to bypass them and go straight to the court for their fair hearing," she added.

Abby Shafroth, an attorney at the National Consumer Law Center, said borrowers are turning to

the courts because nothing else is working.

"They've come to this approach because all other avenues have failed," Shafroth said. "At a certain point there has to be another way, the department cannot say 'You have to use our process and not provide a process.'"

The Department of Education did not respond to a request for comment.

NaviNet, the loan servicer named in the suit, said it doesn't have the authority to decide the fate of student loans. "As mandated by federal requirements, all applications for defense to repayment are submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for processing, and, upon government direction, servicers suspend repayment while the Department of Education makes a discharge eligibility determination," the company said.

Career Education Corp., which operates Sanford-Brown Institute, did not respond to a request for comment.

In 2013, the school reached a \$10 million settlement after an investigation by the New York attorney general found the school routinely misrepresented its job placement results to students. Since then, it has shut down all of its brick-and-mortar campuses but still operates online.

NATION



PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS PHOTOS/TNS

Employee Laura McGinley displays farm-distilled liquors at Tuthilltown Spirits in Gardiner, N.Y. Tuthilltown Spirits is a pioneer in farm distilling.

‘Farm to flask’ laws broaden opportunities for craft distillery businesses

By TIM HENDERSON
Statlino.org

SHELTON, Conn. — Dan Beardsley’s great-grandfather made moonshine on the family farm to make ends meet during Prohibition. Now he can boost farm profits with a legal distillery, thanks to a new Connecticut law that took effect Oct. 1.

The law, based on a similar “farm to flask” law enacted in New York almost a decade ago, allows farmers to distill and sell spirits using their own produce without high-priced licenses or distribution requirements. They can sell their own product at a farm store and can hold tastings without using a wholesaler if they use local ingredients.

Such farm distillery laws are helping rural areas get in on the craft distillery movement. So far this year, a dozen states have enacted laws designed to help craft distilleries, and most benefit farm distillers either directly or indirectly, said Heather Morton, who tracks such laws for the National Conference of State Legislatures. For instance, Indiana shortened the waiting period to start a small distillery from three years to 18 months, and Georgia allowed distillers to sell bottles at retail.

New York this year gave another boost to farm distillers by allowing them to serve cocktails.

Among the states that now offer farm distilleries lower fees or more freedom to sell their products are Arizona, Connecti-

cut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Virginia and West Virginia, according to the NCSL.

Some states require craft distilleries to use local produce, which helps farm distillers. The law in Connecticut requires one-quarter local farm-grown ingredients, and New York’s requires three-quarters.

Minnesota, North Dakota, Virginia and Washington also require some distillers to use local ingredients, and New Jersey offers a “New Jersey Distilled” label if most ingredients are local. Arizona and Georgia allow farmers to distill if they already have wineries.

Such laws “have created a lot of economic activity between distillers and local farmers,” said Andrew Faulkner, vice president of the American Distilling Institute, a trade association for craft distillers based in California.

Some distillers work with seed banks and universities to revive “heirloom grains” that had fallen into disuse, Faulkner said.

Local distilleries also create uses for farm products that would go to waste, like crushed fruit left over from wine-making, which Beardsley plans to gather from nearby farms to make grape, strawberry and blueberry brandy.

In Maryland, once famous for rye whiskey, rye is still planted by farmers to enrich the soil but the crop usually is burned because there’s little demand for it. Now some distillers are looking



Dan Beardsley stands next to a cider press at his apple farm in Shelton, Conn. He plans to distill apple brandy and whiskey under a new state law that makes it easier to start a farm distillery.

for Maryland rye again, Faulkner said.

In New York, farm distiller Ralph Erenzo said some whiskey ingredients are still scarce but demand is likely to bring them back.

Erenzo’s Tuthilltown Spirits had to buy malted barley from Canada to make a Scotch-style single malt whiskey because it couldn’t find enough of the ingredient in New York.

“That will change as New York farmers start to grow barley again and malt houses are started to process it,” Erenzo said.

Erenzo’s distillery is a pioneer in farm distilling. It was the first in the state since Prohibition and among the first to take advantage of the 2008 farm distillery law, Erenzo said. Today, New York has 117 farm distillers, State Liquor Authority spokesman William

Crowley said.

New York’s farm distillery law has been amended since then to allow retail sales and, most recently, to allow the sale of mixed drinks as well as the giving of free samples in 2017, Crowley said.

“It was a big cash-flow issue for them, so now they can serve drinks at a high profit margin,” Crowley said. “It was a big change.”

Faulkner, the American Distilling Institute vice president, said retail and cocktail sales are among the most pressing state policy issues for craft distillers, including those on farms. They can create substantial extra profits, especially if cocktails are allowed.

It’s not a cheap business to start, Beardsley thinks he’ll need at least \$100,000 worth of equipment to start making brandy in

New York.

Erenzo initially experimented with a tea kettle in his kitchen. To make it as a commercial whiskey distiller, he’ll need at least \$500,000 in equipment to start and eventually as much as \$5 million. One copper distiller vat alone cost him almost \$500,000.

For Erenzo, starting a farm distillery in New York was a matter of near desperation after his plans for a rock-climbing ranch in upstate Gardiner fell through when neighbors opposed it.

He considered a vineyard and a flour mill before discovering there were no distilleries left in New York and that state law allowed him to start a small one for a reasonable fee: \$1,500 for three years as opposed to \$65,000 for a full-scale distillery.

Soon afterward, he and his business partner made their first batch of “baby bourbon,” using tiny oak barrels to shorten the bourbon aging process. A Brooklyn shop bought out their first batch of 128 small bottles and sold them for \$100 each.

“We were off and running,” Erenzo said.

The distiller now produces 80,000 gallons per year, and its Hudson brand whiskeys are distributed nationwide.

Beardsley likes the idea of following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, who made corn whiskey and cider brandy during Prohibition.

“I thought it would be nice to carry on that family tradition, but in a legal way,” he said.

WORLD

Hundreds killed by quake in Iran, Iraq

By NASSER KARIMI
AND AMIR VAHDAT
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A powerful magnitude-7.3 earthquake that struck the Iraq-Iran border region killed more than 400 people across both countries, sent people fleeing their homes into the night and was felt as far away as the Mediterranean coast, authorities reported on Monday.

Iran's western Kermanshah province bore the brunt of the tremor, with Iran's state-run news agency reporting the quake killed more than 400 people in the country and injured over 6,700. It is a rural, mountainous region where residents rely mainly on farming to make a living.

In Iraq, the earthquake killed at least seven people and injured 535, all in the country's northern, semi-autonomous Kurdish region, according to Iraq's Interior Ministry.



FARZAD MENATI, TASNIM NEWS AGENCY/AP

Relatives weep over the body of an earthquake victim in Sarpol-e-Zahab, western Iran, on Monday.

The quake was centered 19 miles outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the most recent measurements from the U.S. Geological Survey.

The earthquake struck 14.4 miles below the surface, a shallow depth that can have broader damage. Magnitude-7 earthquakes on their own are capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Iranian social media and news agencies showed images and videos of people fleeing their homes into the night. More than 100 aftershocks followed.

The quake's worst damage appeared to be in the town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in Kermanshah province, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq.

Kokab Fard, 49, a housewife

in Sarpol-e-Zahab, said she had to flee empty-handed when her apartment complex collapsed.

"Immediately after I managed to get out, the building collapsed," Fard said. "I have no access to my belongings."

Reza Mohammadi, 51, said he and his family ran out into the alley following the first shock. "I tried to get back to pick (up) some stuff, but it totally collapsed in the second wave," Mohammadi said.

Those in Sarpol-e-Zahab also said the power and water were out in the town, and telephone and cellphone service was spotty.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences on Monday morning and urged rescuers and all government agencies to do all they

could to help those affected, state media reported. President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to tour quake-damaged areas Tuesday.

In Iraq, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued a directive for the country's civil defense teams and "related institutions" to respond to the natural disaster. The quake could be felt across Iraq, shaking buildings and homes from Irbil to Baghdad.

Amina Mohammed, who survived the quake in Darbandikhan, Iraq, said she and her sons escaped their home as it collapsed around them.

"I think it was only God that saved us," she said. "I screamed to God, and it must have been him to stop the stairs from entirely collapsing on us."

EU launches new era in cooperation on defense

By LORNE COOK
Associated Press

RUSSELS — European Union countries on Monday officially launched a new era in defense cooperation with a program of joint military investment and project development aimed at helping the EU confront its security challenges.

Twenty-three of the EU's 28 member nations signed up to the process, known as permanent structured cooperation, or PESCO. Britain, which is leaving the EU in 2019, and Denmark, with a defense opt-out, were among those not taking part.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini described it as a "historic moment in European defense" and added that "23 member states engaging both on capabilities and on operational steps is something big." Those who didn't sign up can join later.

Mogherini said countries already have submitted more than 50 joint projects in the fields of defense capabilities and military operations. Britain can take part in some if they are of benefit to the entire EU.

She said PESCO, backed by the EU defense fund, "will enable member states to use the economy of scale of Europe and, in this manner, to fulfill the gap of output that we have."

Their signatures are a sign of political will, but the program will enter force only after it's been legally endorsed, probably in December.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel lauded the agreement as "a great step toward self-sufficiency and strengthening the European Union's security and defense policy — really a milestone in European development."

Under the agreement, member countries will submit an action plan outlining their defense aims. Mogherini, EU military chiefs and the European Defence Agency will then evaluate whether the plans are being respected.

Those not living up to their commitments could be kicked out of the group.

EU officials insist this is not just bureaucratic cooperation but real investment that will help develop Europe's defense industry and spur research and development in military capabilities that the bloc needs most.

Mogherini said the move would complement NATO's security aims. The EU, she said, has tools to fight hybrid warfare — the use of conventional weapons industry with things like propaganda and cyberattacks — that the military alliance does not have at its disposal.

The EU also can bring its political and financial weight to bear on security challenges, such as the use of development aid in Africa, where NATO has no real foothold.

2 years on, French honor 130 killed in Paris attacks

Associated Press

PARIS — In silence and tears, families of the victims of France's deadliest terrorist attacks stood alongside President Emmanuel Macron on Monday to honor the 130 people killed two years ago when Islamic State extremists attacked the City of Light.

Security was tight but low-profile for the memorial events, part of the new normal in France since Nov. 13, 2015.

Outside the Stade de France national stadium, Macron and the mayor of the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis placed a wreath of red, white and blue flowers to honor the Portuguese immigrant killed by a suicide bomber, the first victim of the night's violence.

The commemorations continued at Paris cafes, where city officials read out the names of the 29 people gunned down while dining, drinking and enjoying the balmy night.

Dozens of families and Parisians gathered outside the Bataclan concert hall, where the attacks took their most chilling turn as extremists opened fire on



ETIENNE LAURENT/AP

French President Emmanuel Macron and Saint-Denis Mayor Anne Hidalgo stand in front of a commemorative plaque Monday facing Le Carillon bar and Le Petit Cambodge restaurant during a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the Paris attacks.

a dancing crowd and held hundreds hostage in an hours-long standoff with police. Ninety people were killed.

Residents recalled the blasts of explosive belts and assault rifles and described the wariness that has lingered since. Hundreds were wounded; some survivors are disabled for life, and many have deep psychological scars.

On Nov. 13, 2015, France "entered a new era of terrorism," national police Chief Eric Morvan said Monday on BFM television. The attacks ushered in nearly two years of state of emergency,

replaced just two weeks ago with a tough law allowing police wider latitude against anyone suspected of links to radicalism. The state of emergency didn't prevent subsequent extremist violence, including a truck attack on holiday revelers on the Mediterranean shore of Nice.

While ISIS extremists have been ousted from their Syrian stronghold of Raqqa, where the Paris attacks were planned, French authorities remain on guard, and the French military remains active in the U.S.-led military coalition against ISIS.

Spain to brief EU on cyber meddling by Russia, others

Associated Press

RUSSELS — Spain's foreign minister said he will brief his European Union counterparts on alleged cyber meddling from Russian territory and elsewhere aimed at spreading misinformation about the independence push in the northeastern region of Catalonia.

Alfonso Dastis said he would tell the EU's top diplomats Monday in Brussels that data showed internet traffic by media networks "in Russia and other countries" after a banned Oct. 1 secession referendum in Catalonia.

Referring to a recent London meeting between WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and a prominent Catalan pro-independence figure, Dastis also said there were signs that Assange and others "are trying to interfere and manipulate" amid the Catalonia crisis.

Spain said last week that the signs don't necessarily mean the Russian government is involved. Spain's government hasn't provided evidence to back the interference claim.

WORLD

Trump, allies meet as Asia trip winds down

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Donald Trump is winding down his lengthy Asia trip with an international summit and a series of meetings with Pacific Rim allies, including his host in the Philippines who is overseeing a bloody drug war.

Trump jointly met Monday with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with whom he had a contentious phone call last winter, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who hosted the president in Tokyo earlier in the trip. Trump raved about his accomplishments on his five-nation journey, including on trade and North Korea, but said he would wait until his return to Washington on Wednesday to elaborate with a "major statement."

"We've made some very big steps with regard to trade — far bigger than anything you know," Trump told reporters at the beginning of the meeting in Manila, touting business deals forged between the U.S. and foreign companies.

"We've made a lot of big progress on trade. We have deficits with almost everybody. Those deficits are going to be cut very quickly and very substantially," Trump said.

"Except us," Turnbull chimed in, to laughs.

"You're the only one," Trump responded. Trump also the trip had been "very fruitful" for the U.S. and pointed to the warm welcomes he had received in capitals like Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing.

"It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever received," Trump said. "And that really is a sign of respect, perhaps for me a little, but really for our country. And I'm really proud of that."

The opening ceremonies of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations conference began with pageantry, including a group photo of the leaders and the summit's traditional handshake. That cross-body handshake, during which each leader shakes the opposite hands of those next to him or her, briefly baffled Trump, who then laughed as he figured out where to place his arms.

One of the leaders on his flank was Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has overseen a bloody drug war that has featured extrajudicial killings. The two men

Filipinos talk of meeting of 'crass' leaders

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Donald Trump formally met his bombastic Philippine counterpart, Rodrigo Duterte, on the sidelines of an international summit Monday in one of the most anticipated moments in the U.S. leader's first presidential trip to Asia. Both have tested the bounds of statesmanship with their foul language, devil-may-care verbal harangues against enemies and strongman tendencies.

Here is a sampling of what some Filipinos think of their meeting:

■ "The entertainment value is huge, but in terms of policy impact, I would have to say, minimal... Trump doesn't have a clear Asia policy yet. It seems to be developing. Right now, they seem to be more concerned with just giving a reassurance to Asia that they are not leaving, that's all. But concrete initiatives, nothing." — Jay Batongbacal, an associate law professor and director of the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea at the state-run University of the Philippines.

■ "They're of the same color (laughs), they're both OK! They only have one color, one line of thinking. I think it's time that President Duterte came into our lives and Trump in America, and that they have one similar attitude. They might be crass when they talk, but what they say has truth." — Florentino Lucido, as he took pictures of his wife in front of an ASEAN sign near the summit venue.

held longer, formal talks on Monday, and White House aides signaled that Trump was not expected to publicly bring up human rights in their discussions.

During brief remarks to reporters, Trump said he and Duterte have "had a great relationship" but avoided questions



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands Monday during a bilateral meeting at the ASEAN summit in Manila, Philippines.

on whether he'd raise human rights issues. The White House said the two leaders discussed Islamic State, illegal drugs and trade during the 40-minute meeting. Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights came up "briefly" in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs.

Trump also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, which plays a key role in the U.S. vision of an Indo-Pacific region that attempts to de-emphasize China's influence. He is slated to have dinner with Turnbull.

Swirling questions about Russia followed Trump halfway across the globe.

He tried to have it both ways on the issue of Russian interference in last year's presidential race, saying he believes both the U.S. intelligence agencies when they say Russia meddled and Putin's sincerity in claiming that his country did not.

"I believe that he feels that he and Russia did not meddle in the election," Trump said Sunday in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"As to whether I believe it, I'm with our agencies," Trump said. "As currently led by fine people, I believe very much in our intelligence agencies."

Just a day earlier, he had lashed out at the former heads of the U.S. intelligence agencies, dismissing them as "political hacks" and claiming there were plenty of reasons to be suspicious of their findings that Russia meddled to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Former CIA director John Brennan, appearing Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," said Trump was deriding them in an attempt to "delegitimize" the intelligence community's assessment.

"I think Mr. Putin is very clever in terms of playing to Mr. Trump's interest in being flattered. And also I think Mr. Trump is,

for whatever reason, either intimidated by Mr. Putin, afraid of what he could do or what might come out as a result of these investigations," Brennan said.

Brennan said Trump's ambiguity on Russia's involvement was "very, very worrisome from a national security standpoint."

"I think he's giving Putin a pass, and I think it demonstrates to Putin that Donald Trump can be played by foreign leaders who are going to appeal to his ego and play upon his insecurities," Brennan said.

Questions about whether Trump believes the assessment about Russian election-meddling have trailed him since January, when he said for the first time, shortly before taking office, that he accepted that Russia was behind the election-year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race.

A special counsel's examination of potential collusion between Moscow and Trump campaign aides so far has led to indictments against Trump's former campaign chairman and another top aide for crimes unrelated to the campaign, and a guilty plea from a Trump foreign policy adviser for lying to the FBI.

Multiple congressional committees also are investigating.

Trump told reporters traveling with him to Hanoi on Saturday that Putin again had denied the allegations vehemently. The two spoke during an economic conference in Danang, Vietnam. Trump danced around questions about whether he believed Putin but stressed Putin's denials.

"Every time he sees me, he says, 'I didn't do that.' And I believe — I really believe — that when he tells me that, he means it," Trump said, arguing that it makes no sense for him to belabor the issue when Russia could help the U.S. on North Korea, Syria and other issues.

Yemeni rebels vow escalation as Saudis look to relax blockade

By AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Saudi Arabia announced Monday that the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels in Yemen will begin reopening airports and seaports in the Arab world's poorest country days after closing them to a rebel ballistic missile attack on Riyadh.

The announcement from the Saudi mission at the United Nations came after the coalition fighting Yemen's rebels, known as Houthis, faced widespread international criticism over the closure, with the U.N. and more than 20 aid groups saying it could bring millions of people closer to "starvation and death."

"The first step in this process will be

taken within 24 hours and involves reopening all the ports in areas controlled by" Yemen's internationally recognized government, which the coalition backs, read the mission's statement.

Those ports are in Yemeni cities of Aden, Mocha and Mukalla. For ports in rebel-held or disputed territories, such as the city of Hodeida, the mission said it has asked the U.N. to send a team of experts to discuss ways to make sure weapons can't be smuggled in.

The Saudi-led coalition hopes that will prevent "the smuggling of weapons, ammunition, missile parts and cash that are regularly being supplied by Iran and Iranian accomplices to the Houthi rebels," the statement said.

Despite the Saudi announcement, a top

leader of Yemen's Shiite rebels on Monday vowed retaliation against the oil-rich kingdom over its disastrous blockade of his war-torn country. The war has killed more than 10,000 civilians, has displaced 3 million people and has left much of the infrastructure in ruins.

The fiery comments by Saleh al-Sammar, the head of the Presidency Council of the Houthis, came during a rally of thousands of rebel supporters marching down a main boulevard in the capital, Sanaa.

Al-Sammar said that with the blockade, the coalition "shut down all doors for peace and dialogue." The more the blockade tightens, he said, the more the Houthis will develop their abilities to "respond to the assault of the enemy."

After two years of a devastating war,

the Houthis still control much of Yemen's north while the south falls under the embattled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, whose government is recognized by the international community and who is supported by the Saudi-led coalition.

Saudi Arabia announced it shut down all ports after a Houthi ballistic missile attack near Riyadh's international airport.

The missile was intercepted. Saudi Arabia and the U.S. both accused Iran of supplying the missile, saying it bore "Iranian markings." The Houthis have denied that.

For its part, Iran long has denied supplying any arms to Yemen, though it has backed the Houthis and highlighted the high civilian casualties from the Saudi-led coalition's campaign of airstrikes.

STARS AND STRIPES

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OPINION

Our 'thoughts and prayers' do matter

By R. ALBERT MOHLER JR.

Special To The Washington Post

Lex orandi, lex credendi — the law of prayer is the law of belief. Christians have long known that we believe as we pray, and we pray as we believe.

In the wake of tragedy, we are accustomed to hearing calls for "thoughts and prayers." We have heard them from prominent political figures, both Democrats and Republicans. But more recently, such calls have drawn harsh criticism from the left.

In response to the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., responded, "Thoughts and prayers are not enough, GOP." New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, bluntly told Republican leaders that their prayers weren't needed: "We have pastors, priests and rabbis to offer thoughts and prayers." Perhaps the most striking tweet came from Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Wash., who wrote: "They were praying when it happened. They don't need our prayers. They need us to address gun violence and pass sensible legislation."

What does it mean when a political leader says that the nation's "thoughts and prayers" are what we need in the wake of sorrow and grief? It could mean nothing. Or even worse than nothing, the words could be evasive and misleading, covering political irresponsibility or conveying no more than empty sentiment. "Thoughts and prayers" could be a quick way of moving on without meaning to do anything.

Or it could be an expression of what is called "civil religion," the common spiritual language of the American people. Robert Bellah, a sociologist at the University of California, Berkeley, famously argued that "every nation and every people come to some form of religious self-understanding whether the gods are real or not." Some critics clearly do not like it. Nevertheless, expressions of civil religion are necessary for a U.S. president — any president — who must lead the nation as mourner in chief.

To the deeply committed Christian, civil religion is far too little in terms of theologi-



ERIC GAY/AP

First responders join in prayer following a Veterans Day event Saturday near the Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church in Texas.

cal content. To the atheist or agnostic, civil religion is far too theological. Thoughts might be OK. Prayers are a step too far.

To millions of Christians in the nation, saying that our "thoughts and prayers" are with the needy, the hurting and the sorrowful comes as naturally as our own requests for prayer. Praying is not a way of avoiding responsibility, but of affirming it. Prayer is not escapism. It is obedience to Christ and following the example of the apostles.

Understandably, this is perplexing to non-Christians and perhaps even infuriating to the secular-minded. But to Christians who pray in light of God's love, power and mercy, prayer comes as naturally as a child with a need goes to a loving parent.

Christians are taught to pray for our own needs, and for the needs of others. Prayer reminds us of our fundamental lack of self-sufficiency, even as it reminds us of our responsibility to others. We pray for those we know, but we also pray, quite naturally and eagerly, for those we may never know — such as the people of Sutherland Springs, Las Vegas or Orlando, Fla. We pray in the face of moral evil such as mass murder, and we pray in the face of natural evil like a devastating tsunami. When we say our "thoughts and prayers" are with them, we are not washing our hands of duty; we are

expressing our heartfelt urgency to pray. We are affirming the power of God to save, to heal and to comfort. We are praying for human agents, doctors and first responders, friends and neighbors, to do what we cannot, prompted by the leading of God.

Dismissing the language of "thoughts and prayers" may serve political expediency or offer a bit of moral catharsis (or even virtue signaling), but it does not help us move toward healing and unity. We desperately need a common moral vocabulary, and "thoughts and prayers" rightly reminds us of the common moral vocabulary that was once quite uncontroversial in America. Just look at the language of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Ronald Reagan or Barack Obama. Do we not want our leaders to call us to thoughts and prayers for those in grief?

Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and he told them to pray to the Father, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). That is the most revolutionary prayer any human can pray, and in that light, my thoughts and prayers are with the people of Sutherland Springs, and everywhere else on Earth.

R. Albert Mohler Jr. is president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Recognizing a veteran's dark lifetime gift

By J. MARK JACKSON

Special To The Washington Post

Thank you for your service. Veterans are grateful for these words. But for the combat veteran, there is an unspoken, inaudible phrase that follows: And for your continuing sacrifice.

The experience of war, of direct combat, is trauma. It leaves a psychological residue on each veteran; call it mental pain. Veterans carry this burden throughout their lives. The mental trauma experienced determines the level of encumbering psychological residue. It is a sliding scale, but at some point along the continuum, it reaches beyond mental baggage and enters the horrific and debilitating realm of post-traumatic stress disorder. But make no mistake, all combat veterans carry a lasting, indelible imprint of the horror of war.

The condition is persistent. I have met Vietnam War veterans who get chills talking about their experiences even now. I have seen World War II veterans — American, British, German — being brought back discussing their wartime experience as much as 60 years later. This residue of war is no modern phenomenon: It is universal and timeless. It is a dark gift that keeps giving for the lifetime of the veteran.

For this combat veteran, it means:

■ Carrying the knowledge, always, that I killed or was a party to the killing of other

humans, regardless of their status as the enemy.

■ Feeling an almost out-of-body experience when a pair of fighter jets fly over. I am mentally transported back to a desperate fight when the jets flew in so low that the afterburners burned my gunner's neck. I shiver as I return to reality, although the temperature is above 90 degrees.

■ Admitting that I cannot watch war movies any longer. They make me too uncomfortable.

■ Dreaming I am back in the war zone. In my dreams, it always looks different, but I always wake up agitated and disquieted just the same.

■ Rolling out of bed achy and broken from "military wear and tear," knowing that the Department of Veterans Affairs will never acknowledge my pain.

■ Suggesting my son play motorsport or fantasy video games. The sound and the realism of the military games make me edgy.

■ Avoiding large crowds because I cannot trust my behavior if I am pressed too closely.

■ Finding, in quiet moments, that images and memories of war creep back, at first in tableau but moving rapidly to the forefront of my mind. Sometimes I must physically shake my head to clear the thoughts.

■ Realizing that I am, at some part of my core, a violent person capable of startling

acts. This realization humbles and frightens me.

■ Feeling my eyes well when I discuss some emotionally powerful events from the war, no matter how many times I have mentioned them before. Eventually, I stopped talking about them to avoid the reaction.

■ Living my days having prepared for death, accepted that fact and then survived anyway. This changes the fabric of your existence for the rest of your life.

■ Dreading Fourth of July fireworks because they sound so much like a mortar attack.

■ Discovering I don't want to hunt or fire guns, although I did both most of my life.

■ Restraining myself from registering my disgust when a nonveteran informs me he has a war reality ought to be fought.

■ Seeing a sunrise for what it is: a splendid gift I should not still be alive to witness.

Writing this was cathartic. I hope reading it is, as well. Please continue showing your gratitude to the veterans you meet. It means much to have our service acknowledged and appreciated. And remember that when you thank combat veterans for their service, you bestow recognition for demons they willingly shoulder for us all.

J. Mark Jackson served in the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division in the Afghanistan War in 2009.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



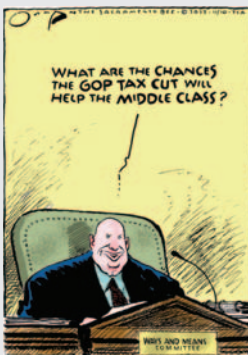
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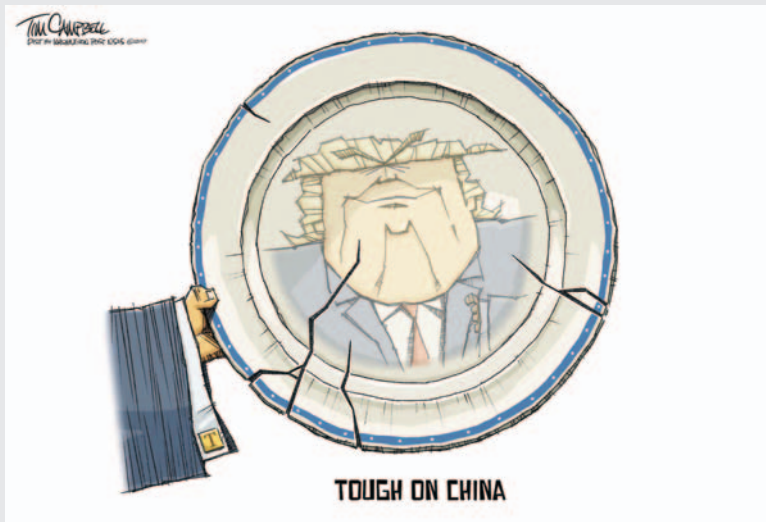
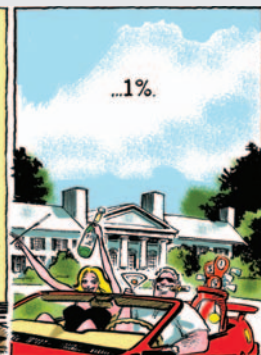
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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Dine-and-dash 'sushi bandit' cited

ID POCATELLO — A man authorities say is the dine-and-dash "sushi bandit" has been cited in eastern Idaho on suspicion of petit theft.

The Bannock County Sheriff's Office told KPVI-TV that a deputy took Trevor Bello into custody Friday after Bello was alleged to have tried to leave Chang's Garden restaurant in Pocatello without paying.

Officials said that earlier this month, someone dined and dashed from a \$126 bill at Sumisu Sushi & Asian Fusion restaurant in Pocatello. Officials said a waitress at Chang's thought Bello fit the sushi bandit description and alerted authorities.

Woman gets refund for iPad box that held flour

WA VANCOUVER — Walmart has refunded money to a western Washington state woman who says she bought an iPad but found a bag of flour in the box instead.

Walmart on Friday returned \$400 to Sharon Nelson, of Vancouver, and said in a statement it appreciates customers notifying them of problems so they can be resolved quickly.

Nelson told KING-TV that she bought the device last weekend from a Walmart store in Portland, Ore., and said the salesman used a key to unlock a cabinet to get it.

Nelson said it looked like someone cut into the packaging.

Officer accused of theft from evidence room

MD ABERDEEN — Investigators said a longtime Maryland police officer repeatedly stole painkillers from a police evidence room and a police-maintained prescription drop box.

State Prosecutor Emmet C. Davitt said in a news release Wednesday that Aberdeen police Lt. Daniel E. Gosnell, 38, an 18-year veteran of the department, has been charged with misconduct in office and possession of a controlled dangerous substance.

State police allege Gosnell consumed various drugs, including oxydnone, heroin, fentanyl and cocaine. Authorities believe the thefts occurred between February 2016 and August 2017.

Relatives still sought for unclaimed cremains

MI ATHENS — Officials are still trying to find relatives to claim more than two dozen cremated remains discovered in southern Michigan after the death of a funeral director.

The work by the Calhoun County's medical examiner began when the family of Joy Spencer Spoor found the cremains in storage after her death Oct. 14. Spoor was a former owner of Spencer Family Funeral Home in the village of Athens.

Chief investigator Joanne Catania told the Battle Creek Enquirer she's resolved at least seven cases by finding relatives or determining there are no family members.

THE CENSUS

5 The weight in pounds of marijuana that deputies delivered to a Mississippi home. The Rankin County Sheriff's Office said Richland police contacted narcotics officers Nov. 1 about an intercepted package sent from California that might contain illegal drugs. Authorities said deputies delivered the package to the address, and that it was accepted by Misty Adams. Adams, David Beard and Thomas Akers II were inside the residence and were arrested and charged with controlled-substance violations.



CHRIS PIETSCH, THE (EUGENE, ORE.) REGISTER-GUARD/AP

Thanks to a hero

Eugene Springfield firefighter Derek Thorstenson high-fives students from Malabon Elementary School in Eugene, Ore., as they file back to their classroom after a small fire and smoke were reported in a wall. The fire was contained quickly.

Groups seek reopening of probe into child deaths

OR PORTLAND — More than a dozen conservation groups have asked Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's office to reopen an investigation into the Oct. 27 killing of a wolf by a hunter who claimed self-defense.

Brian Scott was hunting elk in Union County when he shot and killed a gray wolf he claimed was running at him. Oregon State Police investigated and agreed that he shot in self-defense.

The letter claims that police misinterpreted the evidence. The groups say a public records request revealed photographic evidence that contradicts the official report by police about the incident.

Man who shot sister, 3, with BB gun goes free

IA SIOUX CITY — A Sioux City man has been released from prison less than two months into his seven-year sen-

tence for shooting his 3-year-old sister in the face with a BB gun.

The Sioux City Journal reported that District Judge Steven Andreasen reconsidered Adrian White's sentence last week and suspended the remainder of his prison term. White, 18, is now on three years' probation.

White was sentenced after pleading guilty Sept. 11 to assault and child endangerment.

Prosecutors said White was 17 in May when he shot the preschooler twice in the face. One BB fractured the girl's jaw and the other entered her eye and lodged next to her brain. Surgery was required to remove one of the BBs, but doctors determined the other was too risky to remove.

'Confederate Lives Matter' posts probed

MD HARWOOD — Police in Maryland are investigating a complaint that high school students harassed another student by posting threatening language under the name "Confederate Lives Matter."

The Capital Gazette reported that Anne Arundel police began their investigation Friday into messages posted on Snapchat with obscene and violent language aimed at a transgender student. The messages are suspected to have been posted by students at Southern High School.

Principal Kathryn Feuerherd sent an email to students and their families, saying disciplinary action has been taken against the students involved.

One post included a picture of a student wearing what appears to be a KKK-like hood made from paper towels.

Cooker left at subway station not a bomb

NY NEW YORK — A New York City subway station was reopened after police determined that a pressure cooker left at the station was not a bomb.

The 33rd Street station on the No. 6 line was closed shortly after 6 p.m. Saturday while the bomb squad investigated a report of a suspicious package.

The station reopened just before 9 p.m. when police determined the device was not a bomb.

Harassment complaints may close nude beach

VT WESTMORE — Town officials in Vermont are considering banning nude sunbathing at a popular beach following complaints from women who say they were harassed by naked sunbathers men last summer.

The Westmore Select Board has met with the town attorney to consider a draft public indecency ordinance that would put an end to the clothing-optional beach. The Caledonian-Record reported the secluded beach will be likely addressed in a letter from town selectmen.

Select board Chair Bill Perkins said the ban will be discussed at the annual meeting in early March. He said all three selectmen believe it's time for a public indecency ordinance, but ultimately it will be up to the voters.

From wire reports

FACES

CAN 'WONDER WOMAN'

BEAT OSCAR ODDS?

Superhero films routinely snubbed by Academy voters

By JEN YAMATO
Los Angeles Times

First she won over critics, stirred up audiences and vanquished the box office. Now Wonder Woman is hoping to do what no superhero before her has done: Crack the Oscars.

Charging into awards season like Princess Diana of Themyscira into No Man's Land, Warner Bros.' \$821 million-grossing "Wonder Woman" — the highest-grossing live-action film directed by a woman — is swinging its sword for major nominations including best picture, best director for Patty Jenkins, and lead actress for star Gal Gadot.

In 2009, Christopher Nolan's artsy "The Dark Knight" was widely perceived as a best picture and director contender, but nominations morning crushed the Bat's aspirations. Last year, 20th Century Fox's R-rated "Deadpool" got fan hopes up again. Alas: The Merc with a Mouth failed to secure a single Oscar nomination.

But "Wonder Woman," one of the best-reviewed films of 2017 with a 92 percent Rotten Tomatoes

rating, boasts a zeitgeist-fueled momentum that could help it punch through the film academy's spandex ceiling, where only four women have ever been nominated for best director and only one woman, Kathryn Bigelow, has ever won (for 2009's "The Hurt Locker").

Recent infusions of diversity and youth into the academy's membership might also help the "Wonder Woman" odds. The numbers don't hurt, either: "Wonder Woman" recently surpassed 2002's "Spider-Man" to become the highest-grossing superhero origin movie of all time.

Superhero movies have been banging at the Oscars' door since Nolan reinvented the genre as legitimate art and caught the attention of awards voting bodies. Even though it failed to break into the best picture race, "The Dark Knight" was nominated for eight Oscars and won two, including a posthumous nod for Heath Ledger's Joker. And the picture snub is thought to have prompted the expansion of the academy's top honor from five to 10 nominees the following year.

Warner Bros. officially debuted a For Your Consideration campaign in October, pushing "Wonder Woman" in 15 categories.

Wonder Woman, played by Gal Gadot, is sure to be a centerpiece in the upcoming "Justice League" film thanks to her successful solo movie.

WARNER BROS./DC Comics

Mendes, Eminem among winners at MTV EMAs

From wire services

Shawn Mendes beat Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran to win the best-artist prize Sunday at the MTV EMAs, while U2 band members were proclaimed global icons in a show that celebrated London's diverse culture.

Mendes, the 19-year-old Canadian star, also won the best-song trophy for "There's Nothing Holdin' Me Back." He also took the prize for best fans.

The show, formerly known as the MTV Europe Music Awards, opened with a clip of Eminem performing his new single "Walk on Water" in a London pub. He then emerged onstage to perform the slow-burning number live.

Eminem was also named best hip-hop artist.

Sunday marked the awards' return to London for the first time since 1996.

The show featured plenty of visual dazzle. Performers ranged across genres and generations, and included singer-songwriter Kesha, electronic act Clean Bandit, rapper French Montana, rockers The Killers and former One Direction heartthrob Liam Payne.

'Thor' still on top as box office booms

The God of Thunder won't relinquish his box office throne yet. Studios estimated Sunday that "Thor: Ragnarok" added \$5.6 million from North American theaters in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to \$211.6 million.

The film, directed by Taika Waititi, out-grossed each of its two predecessors domestically in just two weeks, not accounting for inflation.

It easily beat out the comedy sequel "Daddy's Home 2" (\$30 million) and the lavish Agatha Christie adaptation "Murder on the Orient Express" (\$28.2 million), even as both posted solid openings.

"A Bad Moms Christmas" was fourth with \$11.5 million in its second weekend, and "Jigsaw" rounded out the top five with \$3.4 million.

Other news

■ **Louis C.K.'s** upcoming film "I Love You Daddy" will no longer be released after the comedian was accused of masturbating in front of several women in a bombshell piece published by The New York Times on Nov. 10. The Orchard, the distribution company that planned to debut the film on Nov. 17, said in a statement on Nov. 11 that it would not be putting out the film amid the accusations. The black-and-white movie, written and directed by C.K., follows a father whose teenage daughter falls in love with a filmmaker who is decades older than her.

■ **British magazine Grazia U.K.** has apologized to **Lupita Nyong'o** after the actress accused it of altering her hair on its front cover "to fit a more Eurocentric notion" of beauty. The Academy Award winner tweeted before-and-after images, saying the magazine "edited out and smoothed" her hair. The magazine said Nov. 11 that it "apologized unreservedly to Lupita Nyong'o." It said it had not altered the images itself or asked the photographer to do so.

■ **Liz Smith**, the syndicated gossip columnist whose mixture of banter, barbs and bomb mots about the glitterati made her an A-list fixture herself, died Sunday at the age of 94. For more than a quarter-century, Smith's column titled simply "Liz Smith" was one of the most widely read in the world.

■ **A 1963 Martin D-28 acoustic guitar** played by **Bob Dylan** at notable concerts in the 1970s sold at auction Nov. 12 to an anonymous buyer for \$396,500.

■ **British actor Gary Oldman** is married for the fifth time. The 59-year-old married art curator Gisele Schmidt in late August in Beverly Hills, Calif.

■ **John Hillerman**, who played stuffed-shirt Higgins to Tom Selleck's sleazy detective Thomas Magnum in the 1980s TV series "Magnum, P.I.," has died, his nephew said. Hillerman was 84. He also was known for his 1970s roles on the "Ellery Queen" series and the difficult boss on the sitcom "One Day at a Time."

New Star Wars trilogy gives franchise the lead over Trek

By MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

For four decades, "Star Trek or Star Wars" has been one of pop culture's most consistent binary conversation starters among nerds, right up there with "Marvel or DC?" and "CD or vinyl?"

Shortly before 2015, you could reasonably argue that Star Trek had gained the upper hand as a cultural force, thanks to J.J. Abrams' hit reboot of the film franchise coming on the heels of the more recent television successes.

But now, three years after Abrams took his rebooting powers to Disney/Lucasfilm and scored huge with "The Force Awakens," Star Wars has surged further ahead and gained a lead that now might be insurmountable for generations.

Game over, Star Wars. Thanks to Disney's new deal, you just won.

Disney and Lucasfilm announced Nov. 10 that they will embark on a fourth Star Wars trilogy, with "The Last Jedi"

director Rian Johnson at the helm. Not only does that plot a course for unbroken Star Wars momentum on the big screen — as creator George Lucas' critically drubbed second trilogy disappears even further in the rear-view mirror — it also sets up the perpetual relevance of Everything Else Star Wars for many years to come.

The franchise, in effect, becomes a cultural steamroller altering what millions of people — some of them not yet born — see and hear and visit.

Consider the newly announced original Star Wars TV series that Disney will feature on its entertainment streaming service, which is set to go live in 2019.

Consider, too, that come that same year, Anaheim's Disneyland and Disney's Hollywood Studios in Florida will open Star Wars-themed areas, as well as an "immersive" Star Wars-themed hotel at Walt Disney World that will encourage cosplay. (Even Lucas' coming graphic-narrative museum in southern California will be a fan destination that features Star Wars art.)

As Disney moves forward on all these fronts, it bears noting that Star Wars also appears poised to move beyond the Skywalker family line that has anchored the films for four decades, from Vader through Kyo Ren. The Rian Johnson announcement signals the fourth trilogy will move beyond Lucas' narrative DNA, perhaps shedding weighty backstory like a jumbled Millennium Falcon. So where does that leave Star Trek? CBS is streamlining its new "Discovery" series, so there's a glimmer of hope there.

Yet since Abrams left the Star Trek franchise, it's become a story of box-office decline. Last year's "Star Trek Beyond" grossed \$343 million worldwide — a significant dip from the previous two films, both guided by Abrams.

This is not a debate over superior philosophical storytelling or tech effects. This is a battle for mainstream cultural domination.

And as with so many things Disney these days, the commercial Force favors Star Wars for decades.

SHIFTING GEARS

Frugal can be fun



Courtesy of Toyota

2018 Toyota C-HR is a solid compact crossover that's affordable

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

Toyota became the world's largest automaker by building cars that were long on sensibility but short on sex appeal.

With the exception of the 2000GT, the FJ40 and maybe the MR2, the Japanese giant has never been known for making machines that excite the soul.

Instead, it has concentrated on practical people movers that run right, run long and never fail.

Toyota's new C-HR is a very good addition to the legacy of Corollas, Camrys, RAV4s and Priuses. It's frugal and fun to drive.

The C-HR — the name stands for Coupe High-Rider, Toyota says — is a four-door, five-seat cute-utility vehicle, described as either a compact or subcompact SUV.

Powered by an efficient two-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine, it offers 144 horsepower and 139 pound-feet of torque, applied to the front wheels by Toyota's CVT automatic transmission.

Those aren't big numbers, but this is not a big car. Riding on 18-inch wheels, it's light on its feet and light on the scales, weighing in at 3,300 pounds.

The car has sporty lines, including a sharp downward swoop behind the rear

doors and muscular, flared wheel wells. It comes standard with three drive modes. I found Sport not terribly sportier than Normal, and Eco not terribly less so.

2018 Toyota C-HR



Highs: Easy to drive, easy to afford
Lows: Lacking in infotainment options
Vehicle type: Four-door compact SUV
Base price: \$23,460
Price as tested: \$24,427
Powertrain: 2-liter, 4-cylinder gasoline engine
Transmission: Multi-speed CVT automatic
Horsepower: 144
Torque: 139 pound-feet
EPA fuel economy rating: 27 mpg city / 31 highway / 29 combined

TNS

So I stayed in Sport for most of the drive, making the most of the little engine by using the manual "stick shift" option.

At times, the car felt like it needed a few more hamsters on the wheel. But the C-HR proved adequate for the hills of Silver Lake and for repeated runs up and down the Hollywood Freeway.

But it's more of a city slicker than a freeway flyer. Though the CVT allowed the engine to hit 70 mph while spinning at barely above 2,000 rpm, I found the size and weight of the car, on the standard tires and suspension, didn't inspire the confidence required to stay at passing speeds very long.

The C-HR comes standard as the XLE and, in a more luxurious trim line, the XLE Premium. Though both models share the powertrain and include a suite of safety systems — such as lane departure warning, pre-collision sensing and pedestrian alerts — blind spot monitoring and rear cross traffic alert come only on the higher trim.

The base model is pretty basic. The driver cockpit is appropriately minimalist. The dash and center console are made of practical, easy-to-clean plastic. The rear-view backup camera is not a screen but a window in the rear-view mirror. There is no navigation screen. There is no Sirius XM. Neither is available as an

option.

The rear seating section is also very spare. The three back-seat passengers will need to be small ones, as the car offers limited head, leg and side-to-side room. There are no amenities back there either, save a cup holder. Don't look for ports for your devices.

But those rear seats fold down and offer about 40 cubic feet of cargo space. That's room enough for your golf bag, and underneath, the C-HR offers an actual spare tire with the actual tools to change it.

The model I drove also had a roof rack suitable for carrying a surfboard, skis or snowboard. (That's a \$299 option.)

Toyota reported that nearly 15,000 C-HRs had been sold in the U.S. from the time of the vehicle's debut in April through the end of September — below sales numbers for the comparable Honda HR-V, and dwarfed by Toyota's own RAV4.

If you've suffered as I have and been forced to drive pricier SUVs like the Porsche Cayenne or Jaguar P-Pace, you may unfairly find the C-HR lacking some niceties.

But if you're a starting-out car buyer, shopping for a smaller RAV4 or perfectly serviceable alternative to the Honda HR-V or Mazda CX-3, the C-HR is a lot of car for the money and could be a smart choice.



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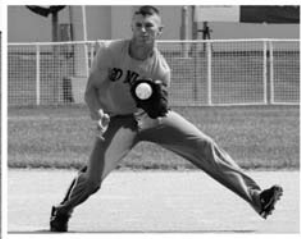
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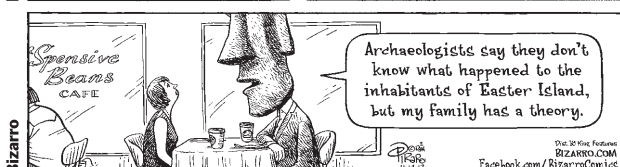
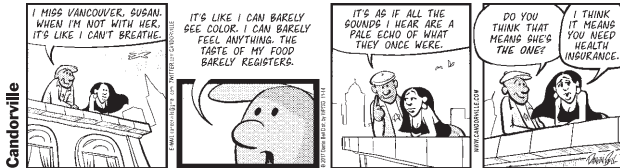
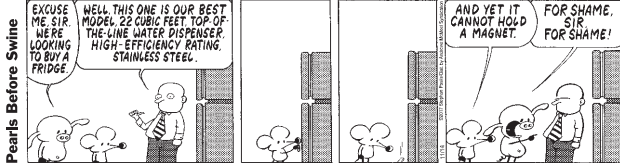
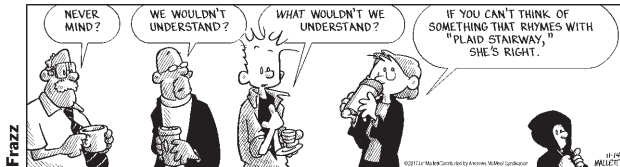
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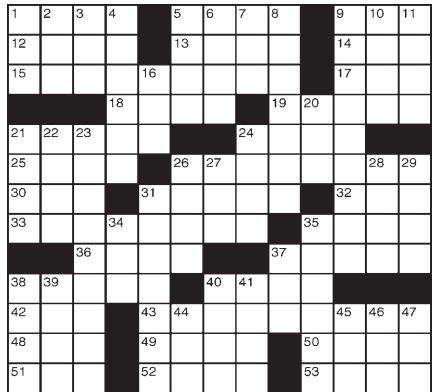
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword



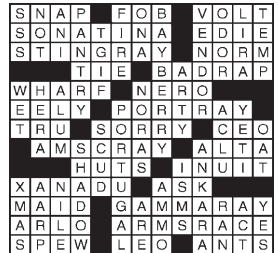
ACROSS

- 1 Profs' degrees
- 5 Border on
- 9 Lettuce variety
- 12 "Yeah, right!"
- 13 Traditional tales
- 14 Chapeau
- 15 Multistate lottery
- 17 Sashimi fish
- 18 Endure
- 19 Madagascarr critter
- 21 In plentiful amounts
- 24 Seniors' org.
- 25 Asta's mistress
- 26 Diamond event
- 30 Blackbird
- 31 Peony part
- 32 Cowboy's sweetie
- 33 Play-ending arcade message
- 35 Con
- 36 —-bitty
- 37 Sanctify
- 38 Coven member
- 40 "Va-va- —!"
- 42 "Entourage" role
- 43 Subdue
- 48 Calendar abbr.
- 49 Track assignment
- 50 Goddess of victory
- 51 Away from WSW

DOWN

- 1 Domino spot
- 2 "Veep" airer
- 3 Morning moisture
- 4 "A Streetcar Named Desire" cry
- 5 Priests' garments
- 6 Gravy vessel
- 7 Web address
- 8 Revealing, like a memoir
- 9 Bubbly
- 10 Diamond Head locale
- 11 Commotion
- 16 Shaft of light
- 20 Work unit
- 21 Scrambled wd.
- 22 "— Lisa"
- 23 Rudimentary
- 24 Winged
- 26 Group of quail
- 27 Consumed
- 28 Gym pads
- 29 Yale students
- 31 Road hazard
- 34 And so on (Abbr.)
- 35 Candy bar nut
- 37 Jazzy style
- 38 Fade away
- 39 Press agent?
- 40 Air outlet
- 41 Twistable cookie
- 44 Moving day rental
- 45 Goffer Michelle
- 46 Supplement, with "out"
- 47 Roulette bet

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-14

CRYPTOQUIP

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RYT GUS HFES GSFE FH F

EFOZADTZHG, FTS PYD

I QFPZOW BZGU RZQST?

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Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals T


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Automotive 140

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NBA



WINSLOW TOWNSEND/AP

The Raptors' Norman Powell, left, tries to knock the ball away from the Celtics' Al Horford during the first quarter on Sunday in Boston. Horford had 21 points as the Celtics won their 12th straight, 95-94.

Roundup

Celtics hold off Raptors

Associated Press

BOSTON — Al Horford had 21 points in his return from a two-game absence for a concussion and the Boston Celtics hung on to beat the Toronto Raptors 95-94 on Sunday for their 12th straight victory.

Boston (12-2) was playing without Kyrie Irving after he took an inadvertent elbow to the face from teammate Aron Baynes on Friday night against Charlotte. Irving has a minor facial fracture but has not been diagnosed with a concussion as initially feared.

Jaylen Brown added 18 points, and Terry Rozier helped fill in for Irving with 16 points off the bench. Boston shot just 40.2 percent from the field.

DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points, and Kyle Lowry had 19 points and seven assists for Toronto. The Raptors dropped to 7-5 after winning two straight.

"They are the best team in the NBA right now, 12 in a row," Lowry said. "They're playing unbelievable, everyone is picking up slack."

Jayson Tatum's acrobatic layup with 1:26 remaining in the fourth quarter put the Celtics up 95-90.

DeRozan missed a potential go-ahead stepback jumper with 19 seconds remaining. Tatum got the rebound, but allowed Fred VanVleet in the face for an offensive foul that was confirmed by video review.

DeRozan had another look to give Toronto the win, but missed a turnaround jumper with 2 seconds left. Serge Ibaka scooped up the rebound, but lost the ball as time expired.

Thunder 112, Mavericks 99: Paul George scored 37 points, Russell Westbrook added 27 and



DUANE BURLESON/AP

Thunder center Andre Drummond (0) defends against a shot by Miami Heat center Hassan Whiteside during the Pistons' 112-103 win on Sunday in Detroit. Drummond had eight points and 17 rebounds.

Oklahoma City overcame the absence of two regular starters to beat visiting Dallas.

Carmelo Anthony was ruled out about an hour before tipoff because of a sore lower back, and starting center Steven Adams sat out with a right calf contusion.

Without Anthony, the Thunder's other two superstars carried the offensive load, fueling a 26-10 run in the third quarter that broke open what had been a tight game.

Harrison Barnes had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks. They have dropped nine of their last 10 games to fall to 1-12.

Rockets 118, Pacers 95: James Harden had 26 points and 15 assists and Houston beat host Indiana.

Eric Gordon had 21 points for Houston, and Clint Capela had

20 points and 17 rebounds. The Rockets overwhelmed the Pacers from the start, jumping out to a 13-2 lead. Houston continued to pile it on early and often, outscoring the Pacers 24-9 during the first 6 minutes.

Victor Oladipo had 28 points for Indiana.

Pistons 112, Heat 103: Tristan Harris scored 25 points and Avery Bradley added 24 points in Detroit's victory over visiting Miami.

Reggie Jackson scored 17 points, rookie Luke Kennard had 14 and Andre Drummond added eight points and 17 rebounds for the Pistons. At 10-3, they are second behind Boston in the Eastern Conference and off to their best start since going 10-2 in 2005-06.

Hassan Whiteside had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Miami.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	12	2	.857	—
Toronto	7	5	.583	4
New York	7	5	.583	4
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	5

Southeast Division

Orlando	8	5	.615	—
Washington	7	5	.583	½
Miami	6	7	.462	2
Charlotte	5	7	.417	2½
Atlanta	2	11	.154	6

Central Division

Detroit	10	3	.769	—
Milwaukee	6	6	.500	3½
Cleveland	6	7	.462	4
Indiana	6	8	.429	4½
Chicago	2	9	.182	7

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	11	3	.786	—
San Antonio	8	5	.615	2½
Memphis	7	5	.583	3
New Orleans	7	6	.538	3½

Northwest Division

Northwest Division				
Denver	8	5	.615	—
Minnesota	7	5	.583	½
Portland	6	6	.500	1½
Utah	6	7	.462	2
Oklahoma City	5	7	.413	3

Pacific Division

Golden State	10	3	.769	—
L.A. Clippers	5	7	.417	4½
L.A. Lakers	5	8	.385	5
Phoenix	5	9	.357	5½
Sacramento	3	9	.250	6½

Saturday's games

New Orleans 111, L.A. Clippers 103	
Washington 113, Atlanta 94	
Cleveland 111, Memphis 104	
Golden State 135, Philadelphia 114	
Milwaukee 98, L.A. Lakers 90	
San Antonio 133, Chicago 94	
Denver 125, Orlando 107	
Phoenix 118, Minnesota 110	
Utah 114, Brooklyn 106	

Monday's games

Boston 95, Toronto 94	
Detroit 112, Miami 103	
Houston 118, Indiana 95	
Oklahoma City 112, Dallas 99	

Tuesday's games

Utah at New York	
Atlanta at New Orleans	
Memphis at Milwaukee	
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix	
Minnesota at Utah	
Denver at Portland	
Orlando at Golden State	
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers	

Wednesday's games

Sacramento at Dallas	
Chicago at Oklahoma City	
Cleveland at Charlotte	
Detroit at Milwaukee	
Indiana at Memphis	
San Antonio at Minnesota	
Toronto at New Orleans	
Orlando at Portland	
Philadelphia at L.A. Lakers	

Sunday

Thunder 112, Mavericks 99	
Dallas — Matthews 9-1 2-1, Barnes 9-14 2-22, Nowitzki 2-7 1-5, Smith Jr. 6-17 1-15, Ferrell 6-9 3-18, Finney-Smith 2-6 0-5, Noel 0-0 0-0, Powell 4-5 2-11, Kidd 1-3 0-2, Meijer 2-3 0-2 4, Withey 1-0 0-2, Barnes 3-10 2-2 9, Clavell 1-3 2-2 5.	
OKLAHOMA CITY — George 12-22 6-7 3-12, Clavell 12-15, Smith 1-3, Barnes 1-5, Withey 0-1, Nowitzki 0-5, Matthews 0-6, Westbrook 6-18 12-13 27, Ferguson 1-2 0-2, Patterson 3-0 0-7, Felton 3-6 0-6 0, Abrines 1-2 0-3, Ferguson 1-1 2-3 3.	
Dallas — 20 22 25 32-99	

Three-Point Goals — Dallas 11-37 (Ferrell 3-4, Barnes 2-4, Smith 1-2, Powell 1-2, Felton 1-2, Nowitzki 1-3, Barnes 1-5, Withey 0-1, Nowitzki 0-5, Matthews 0-6).	
Rebounds — Dallas 41 (Barnes 13, Oklahoma City 37 (Grant, George 8), Assistants 14 (Ferrell, Matthews 4), Oklahoma City 37 (Grant, George 8), Assistants 14).	
Fouls — Dallas 20, Oklahoma City 23.	
Technical Fouls — Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, Oklahoma City coach Thunder (Defensive three second).	
A — 18,203 (18,203).	

Rockets 118, Pacers 95	
Houston — Ariza 5-12 0-5, Anderson 2-7 0-5, Capela 9-12 2-20, Harden 9-21 5-26, Gordon 6-16 8-21, Tucker 3-7 2-9, Clark 1-4 0-6, Mthun 4-4 0-6, O'Quinn 0-0 0-0, Brown 1-2 0-3, Jackson 0-0 0-0, Total 43-95 (18,203).	
Indiana — Bogdanovic 2-10 0-5, Turner 6-11 1-2 13, Collison 3-6 9, Oladipo 11-17 4-6 28, Wilkins 1-0 0-2, Leaf 3-5 1-2 9, Anigbogu 2-0 0-0, Sabonis 1-7 1-7, Young 1-3 0-2, Joseph 1-4 0-2, Stephenson 2-7 4-6 8.	
Totals 37-83 15-21 95.	

A basketball player in a white Denver Nuggets jersey with the number 13 is jumping high to shoot the ball into the hoop. The player is wearing white shorts and blue sneakers. The background shows a large crowd of spectators in a stadium.

SUE OGROCKI/AP

Thunder forward Paul George shoots in the third quarter of Sunday's game against the Dallas Mavericks in Oklahoma City. George scored 37 points in the Thunder's 112-99 victory.

Houston	35	28	24	31-11
Indiana	18	33	20	24- 9

Three-Point Goals—Houston 17-41; Ariza 5-12, Mbah a Moute 3-5, Gordon 3-11, Harden 3-12, Brown 1-1, Tucker 1-2, Anderson 1-4, Indiana 8-22 (Collison 2-2, Leaf 2-3, Oladipo 2-5, Saboris 1-1, Bogdanovic 1-4, Young 0-1, Stephenson 0-1, Turner 0-1, Joseph 0-2, T.Y. Young 0-2).

Fouled Out—Houston 10, Indiana 10.

Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 47 (Capela 17), Indiana 41 (Stephenson 10). Assists—Houston 24 (Harden 15). Indiana 18 (Stephenson, Joseph 3). Total Fouls—Houston 20, Indiana 15. Technicals—Houston coach Rockets (Defensive three second), Harden, Collision A—15,581 (18,500).

Pistons 112, Heat 103

MIAMI — Richardson 5-11 2-3 15, Winslow 2-8 0-0 4, Whiteside 9-16 2-3 20, Dragich 6-14 4-4 18, Waiters 7-17 0-0 16, J.Johnson 3-8 4-5 10, Olynyk 3-5 0-1 8, T.Johnson 2-7 0-0 6, Ellington 2-4 0-0 6. Total 78-90 17-12 103.

Detroit — Bullock 0-3 0-0 0, Harris 8				
15	4-4	25, Drummond 3-8	2-4	8, Jackson 3-8
7-15	2-2	17, Bradley 9-19	4-4	24, Moreland
0-1	0-0	0, Tolliver 3-4	0-0	9, Smith 5-7
11,	Galloway 1-4	2-2	4, Kennard 6-11	0-3
14,	Totals 42-87	14-20	112.	
Miami	29	29	23	22-101
Detroit	31	34	29	20-111

Saturday's games			
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Sacramento at Dallas			
Chicago at Oklahoma City			
Cleveland at Charlotte			
Detroit at Milwaukee			
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Orlando at Portland			
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Sunday			
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OKLAHOMA CITY — George 12-22 6-7 3-12, Clavell 12-15, Smith 1-3, Barnes 1-5, Withey 0-1, Nowitzki 0-5, Matthews 0-6, Westbrook 6-18 12-13 27, Ferguson 1-2 0-2, Patterson 3-0 0-7, Felton 3-6 0-6 0, Abrines 1-2 0-3, Ferguson 1-1 2-3 3.			
Dallas — 20 22 25 32-99			

Three-Point Goals			
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Fouls — Dallas 20, Oklahoma City 23.			
Technical Fouls — Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, Oklahoma City coach Thunder (Defensive three second).			
A — 18,203 (18,203).			

Rockets 118, Pacers 95			
Houston — Ariza 5-12 0-5, Anderson 2-7 0-5, Capela 9-12 2-20, Harden 9-21 5-26, Gordon 6-16 8-21, Tucker 3-7 2-9, Clark 1-4 0-6, Mthun 4-4 0-6, O'Quinn 0-0 0-0, Brown 1-2 0-3, Jackson 0-0 0-0, Total 43-95 (18,203).			
Indiana — Bogdanovic 2-10 0-5, Turner 6-11 1-2 13, Collison 3-6 9, Oladipo 11-17 4-6 28, Wilkins 1-0 0-2, Leaf 3-5 1-2 9, Anigbogu 2-0 0-0, Sabonis 1-7 1-7, Young 1-3 0-2, Joseph 1-4 0-2, Stephenson 2-7 4-6 8.			
Totals 37-83 15-21 95.			

Thunder forward Paul George shoots in the third quarter of Sunday's game against the Dallas Mavericks in Oklahoma City. George scored 37 points in the Thunder's 112-99 victory.			
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Houston 35, Toronto 24-118			
Indiana 18, 33, 20, 24-95			
Three-Point Goals — Houston 14-47 (Ariza 5-12, Mthun 4-4, Koutis 3-5, Gordon 3-11, Harden 3-12, Brown 1-1, Tucker 1-2, Anderson 1-2, Indiana 2-22 (Collison 2-2, Leaf 2-3, Oladipo 2-5, Sabonis 1-1, Bogdanovic 1-4, Young 0-1, Stephenson 0-1, Turner 0-1, Joseph 0-2, T.Y. Young 0-2), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 47 (Capela 17, Indiana 41 (Stephenson 10), Assistants—Houston 24 (Harden 15, Indiana 18 (Stephenson, Joseph 3), Total Fouls—Houston 20, Indiana 15. Technical Fouls—Houston coach Rockets (Defensive three second), Harden 1, Collision A—15,581 (18,500).			

Pistons 112, Heat 103			
Miami — Richardson 5-11 2-3 15, Winslow 2-8 0-4, Whiteside 9-16 2-3 20, Dragic 6-14 4-4 18, Walters 7-17 0-10, Johnson 3-8 4-5 10, Olmyn 3-5 0-1 8, Johnson 2-7 0-6, Ellington 2-4 0-6 0-6, Totals 39-90 12-16 103.			
DETROIT — Bullock 0-3 0-0 0, Harris 8-15 4-4 25, Drummond 3-8 2-4 8, Jackson 1-15 2-17, Bradley 9-19 4-24, Moreland 0-1 0-0 0, Tolliver 3-4 0-5, Smith 5-7 1-3 11, Gallaway 1-4 1-2 4, Kennard 6-11 0-1 14.			
Totals 42-87 10-20 112.			
Miami — 29 23 22-103			

Detroit			
Three-Point Goals — Miami 13-37 (Richardson 3-7, Dragic 2-4, Olmyn 2-4, Ellington 2-4, Johnson 2-7, Walters 2-3, Johnson 0-1, Winslow 0-1), Detroit 18 (Harris 5-8, Tolliver 2-3, Whiteside 12, Bradley 2-5, Jackson 1-3, Gallaway 1-3, Bullock 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 39 (Whiteside 12, Detroit 54 (Drummond 17), Assistants—Miami 25 (Dragic 7, Detroit 18), Total Fouls—Miami 22, Detroit 17. A—16,236 (21,000).			

Celtics 95, Raptors 94			
TORONTO — Powell 0-2 0-0 0, Ibaka 3-11 8, Valanciunas 3-4 0-6 6, Lowry 5-10 5-5 19, DeRozan 8-22 7-8 24, Miles 4-8 0-0 10, Anunoby 2-3 3-4 7, Siakam 3-5 0-1 8, Poeltl 1-2 0-2, Nwoguera 0-3 0-0 0, VanVleet 1-3 2-2 4, Wright 2-3 2-6. Totals 32-89 20-23 94.			
BOSTON — Tatum 6-15 0-0 13, Horford 8-			

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Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Kevin Harvick wasted zero time in leveling the first valley in NASCAR's championship race.

In Harvick's opinion, he's playing with house money when he races Martin Truex Jr., Kyle Busch and Brad Keselowski next Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway for the title. It's Truex, Harvick believes, who faces all the pressure.

"Martin has won a lot of races this year," Harvick said. "Those guys have dominated the year, and I feel like if they don't win at this point, they would probably feel like they've had a letdown."

"It's a lot of fun coming from behind and playing catch up and kind of playing that underdog role is much easier than being expected to go down there and win. We expect to win."

When told that Harvick has picked Truex as the favorite, Truex cut off the question before waiting to hear what Harvick even said.

"That sounds like Harvick," joked Truex.

But Truex won't be rattled. He's won seven races this year, been the most dominant driver all season and has three wins in these playoffs. So if Harvick is trying to lean on Truex, he's got the wrong guy.

"It doesn't work on me," Truex said. "I'm the favorite, perfect, I like that. I think it's a better position to be in. I was the underdog before and I finished fourth,



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Matt Kenseth reacts after his winner's trophy broke as he picked it up in Victory Lane on Sunday at Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, Ariz.

so yeah, bring it on."

The field was finalized Sunday when Keselowski earned the final spot in the championship on points. He finished 16th at Phoenix Raceway and had to sweat it out because he was never in contention for the victory. Had one of four other drivers won the race, Keselowski would have been out.

And, had Chase Elliott and Denny Hamlin not been feeding, Hamlin might have claimed the final spot over Keselowski on points.

"Just feel glad to make it through, you know, and have a shot next week," Keselowski said. "You never know how these things are going to play out. Certainly would be a stretch by any means by how we ran today to say we're the favorite, but we are glad to be there, and you never know how those races are going to shake out."

Matt Kenseth passed Elliott with 10 laps remaining to win Phoenix and deny Elliott the final berth in next week's championship race. Had Elliott hung on for the win, he would have qualified for the championship finale.

Elliott finished second for the seventh time in his career.

The Kenseth win salvaged the day for Gibbs, which had a chance to get Hamlin into the championship.

Hamlin and Elliott were racing for position and Elliott gave Hamlin several taps as he tried to get past him for position, and when he finally was able to pull alongside Hamlin, the two cars made contact. Hamlin grazed the wall and immediately began losing positions on the track.

Just a few laps later, his tire blew, Hamlin hit the wall and his race was over. Elliott admitted he raced Hamlin aggressively, same as Hamlin did when he wrecked Elliott from the lead at Martinsville.

"A wise man once told me that he'll race guys how they race him with a smile on his face, so that's what I did today," Elliott said. "I raced him how he raced me, and that's the way I saw it. That's about all I have to say."

Hamlin was racing to win, but could have beaten Keselowski into the finale on points had he not wrecked. He has maintained that he didn't mean to wreck Elliott at Martinsville, and the paycheck Sunday was redemption.

"It just proves to the people who thought I was a bad guy that he would do the exact same thing under the same circumstances," Hamlin said. "I got into him and he chose to retaliate."

Formula One: It was all about who got the best start at the Brazilian Grand Prix in Sao Paulo.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel had it, starting from the second spot on the grid. Pole sitter Valtteri Bottas didn't, and it probably cost the Mercedes driver the race.

Vettel overtook Bottas on the first turn and essentially held the lead the entire way for his 47th career victory, his fifth this season, and his third in Brazil.

The victory solidified Vettel's hold on second place in the season standings after Lewis Hamilton clinched the title two weeks ago in Mexico City.

Bottas finished second with Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari taking third. Hamilton was fourth, just 5.4 seconds behind Vettel.

Top 25 roundup

Kentucky holds off Vermont

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky coach John Calipari didn't mind a closer-than-expected 73-69 win over Vermont on Sunday.

"You cannot play 'Popcorn State and make anything,'" Calipari said. "You've got to play good teams. I didn't realize how good [Vermont] was until I watched the tape. Then I was like, 'who scheduled this game? This is ridiculous.'" They just do an unbelievable job."

The Wildcats, playing their second game in three days to open the season, missed seven of their last eight field goals and held off a late surge by the Catamounts. Trailing 72-69, Vermont missed two three-pointers in the final 30 seconds. Washington made one of two free throws with less than a second left for the victory.

The Wildcats (2-0) will take on the Jayhawks (1-0) in the Champions Classic on Tuesday in Chicago. Kansas opened the season with a 92-56 rout of Tennessee State Friday night. The Wildcats defeated Utah Valley 73-63 Friday night for their season opener.

Kentucky trailed by 12 in a season-opening win over Utah Valley in the first half, but the Wildcats got off to a better start against the Catamounts and made five of their first nine shots and never trailed after Vermont scored the first basket of the contest.

Diallo led the Wildcats with 18 points in the opener and picked

off where he left off against the Catamounts. He finished with 16 points and scored 13 of those in the first half. Diallo's three-pointers, Kentucky's first of the contest, gave the Wildcats a 36-24 lead at the break.

P.J. Washington led Kentucky with a career-high 16 points. Washington scored nine points in the first half and wasn't surprised by Vermont's late surge.

"They started making shots," Washington said. "We knew they were good. We just had to buckle down and play defense (at the end)."

Washington and Diallo combined for nine of Kentucky's 14 field goals in the opening half. Quade Green had 15 and Kevin Knox finished with 11.

"We came through and got the win," Green said. "Everybody is a winner. We like to win and we came out with the win."

Vermont, which finished 29-6 last season and hadn't lost a regular-season game since an 81-69 setback to Butler last December, was led by Tre Bell-Haynes with 16 points. Anthony Lamb scored 15, Drew Urquhart had 13 and Ernie Duncan added 10.

No. 3 Arizona 103, UMBEC 78: Allonzo Trier scored 30 points and host Arizona overpowered Maryland-Baltimore County.

DeAndre Ayton added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats (2-0), who scored over 100 points for the second time in two games

this season.

Arizona pulled away with Tricer's three-pointer, one of five for the junior guard, for an 86-68 lead, then freshman Alex Barcello drilled back-to-back threes to put the game away.

The Wildcats made 61 percent of their shots for the game and 15 of 28 threes.

No. 12 Miami 89, Navy 55: D.J. Vasiljevic scored 16 points to lead host Miami.

The Hurricanes (2-0) never trailed and opened the game with a 9-0 run in the first 4:27. Jacquan Newton's two layups and Vasiljevic's three-pointer keyed Miami's early surge.

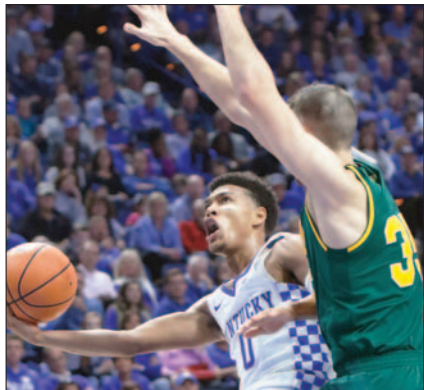
Newton finished with 14 points on 6-for-10 shooting. Dewan Huell had a double 14 points and 10 rebounds for Miami.

The Hurricanes wore down the Midshipmen (1-1) in transition. Miami scored 29 points on fast break opportunities.

Hasan Abdullah scored 13 points to lead Navy.

No. 16 Louisville 72, George Mason 61: Deng Adel had 20 points, and freshmen Darius Perry and Jordan Nwora combined to score 22 in the second half to rally host Louisville and win David Padgett's debut as the Cardinals' interim coach.

The Cardinals trailed for the much of the game before their newcomers stepped up to make all six combined shots, with many in clutch moments. Louisville shot 70



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's Quade Green (0) shoots while pressured by Vermont's Peyton Henson during the second half Sunday, in Lexington, Ky.

percent after halftime to win its first regular season contest since longtime coach Rick Pitino was fired last month in the wake of a national federal investigation of corruption in college basketball.

No. 23 Seton Hall 75, Monmouth 65: Myles Powell scored 18 points and Angel Delgado added 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, leading Seton Hall to an easy victory over Monmouth.

Four-Seton Hall players reached double figures in scoring, including Khadeen Carrington (14) and Michael Nze (10).

No. 20 Purdue 111, Chicago State 42: Carsen Edwards

scored a career-high 25 points, Vince Edwards added 15 points and 12 rebounds, and host Purdue routed Chicago State.

After defeating Southern Illinois-Edwardsville 105-74 in its season-opener Friday, the Boilermakers have now scored 100 or more points in consecutive games for the first time since February of 1974.

Dakota Mathias had 18 points and six assists, shooting 4-for-5 from three-point range, and P.J. Thompson added 16 points as the Boilermaker hit 12 three-point attempts.

NHL/MLB



Nick Wess/AP

Capitals goalie Braden Holtby, center, celebrates with teammate Alex Ovechkin or Connor McDavid would be expected to figure in the win. This time, it was the goalies who stood out until T.J. Oshie came through in the shootout.

Roundup

Oshie lifts Caps in SO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Usually, when the Washington Capitals and Edmonton Oilers meet, Alex Ovechkin or Connor McDavid would be expected to figure in the win. This time, it was the goalies who stood out until T.J. Oshie came through in the shootout.

Oshie scored the only goal of the tiebreaker to lift the Capitals to a 2-1 victory over the Oilers on Sunday night. Braden Holtby stopped 29 shots through overtime — including a flurry late in the second period — and all three Edmonton attempts in the shootout.

“It was a pretty dead game up to then, kind of both sides,” Holtby said. “We knew they were going to come with a push somehow with their talent obviously.”

Dmitry Orlov scored in regulation for the Capitals.

Holtby stopped the only shot in overtime, and he admitted that he would have liked some more action in the five-minute scramble.

“That was probably the most boring 3-on-3 I’ve played,” Holtby said. “Everyone was just winding back and winding back. There was barely anything. It was kind of disappointing.”

While the adrenaline junkie goalie wanted some more to do, his teammates are delighted that they have him.

“Holt’s the best player every night for us,” right winger Tom Wilson said. “He made some huge saves, obviously, but at this point

that’s a pleasure that we have — him showing up every night. We got to do our best to kind of keep the shots to the perimeter, but he does a good job when they do have a scoring chance. As a team, I thought we did a good job. Holding that squad to one goal is pretty good.”

Juhar Khaira scored for the Oilers, who finished 2-1 on a four-game trip after winning the first two in overtime. Laurent Brossoit, starting just his second game of the season and 12th in four NHL seasons, finished with 18 saves.

Devils 7, Blackhawks 5: Miles Wood had his first career hat trick and added an assist to help visiting New Jersey rally.

Rookie Nico Hischier had a goal and two assists, and Andy Green, Taylor Hall and Brian Gibbons also scored, and Keith Kinkaid stopped 39 shots for the Metropolitan Division-leading Devils.

Lightning 2, Ducks 1: J.T. Brown scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period, leading Tampa Bay past host Anaheim for its fourth straight win.

Vladislav Namestnikov also scored and Andrei Vasilevsky stopped 28 shots to help the Lightning avenge one of their only two regulation losses this season.

Sharks 2, Kings 1: Joel Ward scored the tiebreaking goal on a long deflection off his skate with 7:10 to play, and visiting San Jose rallied from a third-period deficit.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	18	14	2	2	30	71	46
Toronto	19	12	7	0	24	72	63
Ottawa	16	8	3	5	21	59	53
Detroit	18	8	6	4	20	59	53
Montreal	18	8	9	1	17	46	61
Boston	16	6	6	4	16	44	51
Buffalo	17	5	9	3	13	40	60
Florida	16	5	9	2	12	53	62
Metropolitan Division							
New Jersey	17	11	4	2	24	61	54
Pittsburgh	18	10	7	1	21	56	50
Washington	18	10	7	1	21	53	53
Columbus	19	9	7	3	21	59	60
N.Y. Islanders	17	9	6	2	20	60	55
N.Y. Rangers	18	9	7	2	20	60	59
Philadelphia	17	8	7	2	18	50	45
Carolina	15	6	5	4	16	41	43

Western Conference

Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	18	13	4	1	27	58	44
Winnipeg	16	9	4	3	21	52	46
Nashville	16	9	5	2	20	45	46
Dallas	16	9	7	0	18	47	43
Chicago	18	8	8	2	18	53	49
Colorado	16	8	7	1	17	54	55
Minnesota	16	7	7	2	16	46	44

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime or shootout loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games

N.Y. Rangers 4, Edmonton 2	OT
Ottawa 4, Carolina 3	OT
Montreal 2, Buffalo 1	OT
Toronto 4, Boston 1	
Columbus 2, Detroit 1	SO
Minnesota 1, Philadelphia 0	
Chicago 4, Carolina 3	OT
New Jersey 2, Florida 1	
N.Y. Islanders 5, St. Louis 2	
Nashville 5, Pittsburgh 4	SO
Winnipeg 4, Arizona 1	
San Jose 5, Vancouver 0	

Sunday's games

Washington 7, Chicago 5	
Washington 2, Edmonton 1	SO
Tampa Bay 2, Anaheim 1	
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 1	
Dallas at Carolina	
St. Louis at Calgary	
Buffalo at Pittsburgh	
Dallas at Florida	
Columbus at Montreal	
Philadelphia at Minnesota	
Arizona at Winnipeg	
Washington at Nashville	
Vegas at Edmonton	
Calgary at Los Angeles	

Wednesday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Chicago	
Boston at Anaheim	

Sunday

Capitals 2, Oilers 1 (SO)						
Edmonton	0	0	1	0	0	1
Washington	0	0	1	0	0	2
Washington won shootout 1-0.						
Third Period—1, Edmonton, Khaira 1 (Pakarinen, St. Louis, 32.2, Washington, Orlov 1 (Bowie, Wilson), 5:14.						
Shootout—Edmonton 0 (Draisaitl NG, McDavid NG, Letestu NG), Washington 1 (Oshie G, Kuznetsov NG, Backstrom NG).						
Shots on goal—Edmonton 5-12-12-1-30, Washington 7-5-19.						
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 6; Washington 0 of 3.						
Goals—Edmonton, Brossoit 0-1-1 (19 shots-16 saves), Washington, Holtby 10-3-10 (26).						
A-1,586 (18,777), T-2:38.						

Sharks 2, Kings 1

San Jose	0	0	2	0	2	0
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1	0	1
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Brown 8 (Doughty, Kopitar), 8:30 (pp).						
Third Period—2, San Jose, Karlsson 3 (Couture, Hertl), 5:42, 3, San Jose, Ward 3 (Ryan, Goodrow), 12:50.						
Shots on goal—San Jose 4-15-14-33, Los Angeles 8-11-8-27.						
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; Los Angeles 1 of 4.						
Goals—San Jose, Jones 7-4-0 (27 shots-26 saves), Los Angeles, quick 9-3 (13-31).						
T-2:28.						

Lightning 2, Ducks 1

Tampa Bay	0	1	1	2	0	1
Anaheim	0	0	1	1	0	1
Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, Namestnikov 9 (Kucherov, Stamkos), 9:12 (pp).						
Third Period—2, Anaheim, Silfverberg 5 (Wagner, Coplan), 2:48, 3, Tampa Bay, Brown 1 (Kunitz, Callahan), 7:18.						
Shots on goal—Tampa Bay 17-12-8-37, Anaheim 7-7-15-28.						
Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 1 of 2; Anaheim 0 of 1.						
Goals—Tampa Bay, Vasilevsky 13-1-1 (29 shots-28 saves), Anaheim, Gibson 5-6-1 (37-35).						
A-15,707 (17,174), T-2:41.						

Devils 7, Blackhawks 5

New Jersey	2	4	1	0	7	5
Chicago	4	1	0	1	5	7
First Period—1, Chicago, Anisimov 6 (Rutts, Kano), 0:41, 2, New Jersey, Wood 4 (Hall, Stastny), 3:40 (pp), 3, Chicago, Dextrinac 6 (Schmalz), 13:41, 4, Chicago, G. (Bourna), 16:39 (pp), 5, Chicago, Kero 1 (Bourna), 17:01, 6, New Jersey, Wood 5 (Zachra, Schmalz), 17:14.						
Second Period—7, New Jersey, Greene 2 (Coleman, Nosen), 3:07, 8, New Jersey, Hischier 3, 6:52, 9, New Jersey, Hall 6 (Greene, Hischier), 12:15, 10, New Jersey, Gibbons 8 (Wood), 17:05, 11, Chicago, Kane 6 (Schmalz, Rutts), 19:57 (pp).						
Third Period—12, New Jersey, Wood 6 (Bratt, Hischier), 2:21 (pp).						
Shots on goal—New Jersey 12-13-13-38, Chicago 17-16-11-44.						
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 2 of 3; Chicago 2 of 3.						
Goals—New Jersey, Kinkaid 4-1-1 (44 shots-39 saves), Chicago, Crawford 7-7-0 (25-19), Forsberg 1-1-2 (13-12).						
A-21,487 (18,717), T-2:37.						

Shots on goal—San Jose 4-15-14-33, Los Angeles 8-11-8-27.

San Jose	0	0	2	0	2	0
Los Angeles	1	0	0	1	0	1
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Brown 8 (Doughty, Kopitar), 8:30 (pp).						
Third Period—2, San Jose, Karlsson 3 (Couture, Hertl), 5:42, 3, San Jose, Ward 3 (Ryan, Goodrow), 12:50.						
Shots on goal—San Jose 4-15-14-33, Los Angeles 8-11-8-27.						
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 2; Los Angeles 1 of 4.						
Goals—San Jose, Jones 7-4-0 (27 shots-26 saves), Los Angeles, quick 9-3 (13-31).						
T-2:28.						



CHRISTINE COTTER/AP

Lightning center Yanni Gourde skates toward the goal during the first period Sunday against the Ducks in Anaheim, Calif.

MLB briefs

Beltran retires at 40

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Carlos Beltran is retiring at age 40 after winning his first World Series title in his 20th major league season.

The outfielder made the announcement Monday, 12 days after the Houston Astros beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7 of the World Series.

Beltran is a nine-time All-Star who won the 1999 AL Rookie of the Year award and three Gold Gloves.

His production dropped dramatically this year. He hit .295 with 29 homers and 93 RBIs for the New York Yankees and Texas in 2016. He then batted .231 with 14 homers and 51 RBIs for Houston.

He finishes with a .279 average, 435 homers, 1,587 RBIs and 312 stolen bases. He also has played for Kansas City, the New York Mets, San Francisco and St. Louis.

AP source: Braves hire Anthopoulos as GM

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves have selected a young but experienced leader to guide their team, hiring former Dodgers and Blue Jays executive Alex Anthopoulos as their general manager, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press.

Anthopoulos, 40, is expected to be introduced as general manager on Monday, the person told the AP, speaking on condition of anonymity Monday because the hiring has yet to be announced.

Anthopoulos, Toronto's onetime general manager, spent the last two seasons as the Dodgers' vice president of baseball operations. He succeeds John Coppolella, who was forced to resign on Oct. 2 after an ongoing investigation by Major League Baseball disclosed rule violations committed by the Braves in the international player market.

NFL/HIGH SCHOOL

Short-handed Cowboys falter in loss to Falcons

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Dallas Cowboys knew it would be tough to get by without Ezekiel Elliott.

Turns out, they missed Tyron Smith even more.

With their starting left tackle sidelined by back and groin injuries, the Cowboys surrendered six sacks to Adrian Clayborn in one of the greatest pass rushing performances in NFL history.

The result: an ugly 27-7 loss to the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday.

"The next man up has to be ready on a moment's notice," Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said. "We didn't handle the adversity of the day."

After three legal reprieves, Elliott finally began serving a six-game suspension for allegations of domestic abuse. There was certainly no replacing a dynamic back who led the league in rushing as a rookie.

Alfred Morris started in Elliott's place and broke off a 20-yard run, but the former Pro Bowl running back didn't have much of an impact. He finished with 11 carries for 53 yards.

Rod Smith carried three times for 14 yards, while Darren Mc-



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) sits on the bench during Sunday's 27-7 loss to the Falcons in Atlanta.

Fadden was stuffed for a 2-yard loss on his lone run.

"We became one-dimensional," Morris said. "We got behind. I take full ownership of that. We'll learn from this game."

Chaz Green certainly has a lot to learn.

The third-year lineman stepped

in for Smith — and spent most of the game grasping at air.

Clayborn was simply too quick off the edge, blowing by Smith time after time.

"It was more me not sticking to what I know," Green said. "A lot of my issues were self-inflicted. It just hurts because I feel I let the

team down."

Clayborn, who had two sacks on the season and 22.5 in his seven-year career before Sunday, broke the Atlanta team record and equaled the second-most sacks by any player in a game.

Only the great Derrick Thomas has ever been credited with more, recording seven sacks for the Kansas City Chiefs in a 1990 game against the Seattle Seahawks.

Clayborn also forced two fumbles by Dak Prescott and recovered one of them, simply ripping the ball out of the quarterback's hands.

"Give them a lot of credit for completely compromising everything we did offensively," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said.

With the running game bogged down and Prescott running for his life, the Cowboys (5-4) never got much going offensively against an Atlanta team that has lost four of five games.

Dallas finished with just 233 yards, its worst showing of the season.

In all, Prescott was sacked eight times — just two fewer sacks than he endured through the Cowboys' first eight games. The second-year quarterback had never been

sacked more than four times in a game.

"When we got in those passing situations, we couldn't slow them down," Garrett said. "We didn't protect well enough, and they put too much pressure on Dak."

The dismal performance in Atlanta capped a tumultuous week for the Cowboys, who had won three straight.

Jones is upset about a contract extension for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and didn't dispute reports that he has threatened to sue the league.

While unhappy about with the way Goodell handled Elliott's case, Jones said he is mainly at odds with the league over a committee of six owners, chaired by Arthur Blank of the Falcons, negotiating an extension without another vote of all 32 owners. Blank was also at Sunday's game, but there was no indication that he spoke with Jones about their differences.

As for Elliott's case, the Cowboys are moving on.

"He intends to come back with a fresh approach," Jones said. "He's learning things every day. What I want for Zeke is that he is a better person."

DODEA PACIFIC ATHLETES OF THE YEAR: TENNIS

Erin Chang, ASU

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — More times than not, tennis is viewed as an "all eyes on me" individual discipline, with singles titles possibly leading to team success.

Somehow, Erin Chang missed that memo.

She prefers to pair up with teammates to help American School In Japan to team success. The Mustangs senior is a two-time Far East mixed doubles champion, including the just-concluded season, when she also won girls doubles.

"I definitely prefer playing doubles over singles," Chang said. "I'm better at the net than I am on the baseline, and I'm also used to playing doubles because I play with my family all the time."

"I just feel more comfortable with someone else on the court with me," she said.

Chang teamed with Leon Hoy to capture Far East mixed doubles in 2015. She now has five postseason titles in a three-year span.

For her efforts this season, unbeaten except for a loss in the Kanto Plain girls doubles finals, Chang is the Stars and Stripes Pacific girls tennis Athlete of the Year.

Success in doubles is not only about technique and skill, Chang says, but the mental aspect and having somebody on the court to share that success and encourage and steady her when the going gets rough.

"Having someone with me on the court helps me calm down and suppress my frustration when I miss," she said. "The relationship you have with your partner and the mood during the game matters a lot. You can share the experience with them both on and off the court."

That's what sets singles and doubles apart, Chang says. "The best singles player isn't necessarily the best doubles player."



Chang might have played volleyball, instead of tennis, she said, had her older brother, Kent, not played for ASU. "I started because he started," Chang said.

She brought volleyball knee pads and a tennis racket to the first day of school as a freshman and waited until the "very last minute," Chang said, to sign up for tennis. And then for doubles, "because that was all I ever played," she said.

Hoy and Chang paired up to win their second mixed doubles title in three seasons, and Chang and junior Eriya Hara won in girls doubles.

The final was their sixth match of the day. Chang's positive attitude helped Hara get through it, she said.

"She is always a positive thinker and is always smiling, even if we are playing a tough match," Hara said. "She dominates the court when she comes up to the net."

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Noah Inahara, ASUJ

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Whether playing alongside his younger brother in a doubles match or against him in a Far East singles finals tie, Noah Inahara says he plays just as hard as he would any other opponent.

The record speaks for itself. Inahara, an American School In Japan senior, ran the table in singles, including Kanto Plain and Far East finals against his freshman brother Joshua; and in doubles, when he teamed with Joshua to win both titles.

"I knew Joshua was going to be my biggest obstacle this year," Inahara said, "but that didn't change anything. I've obviously known Joshua for much longer and we've practiced together so much, but I still gave it my all on the court when I played him."

Noah started slow but closed each set strongly, beating Joshua 6-3, 6-2 for the Far East singles title. The two teamed to beat St. Mary's Kai Strawn and Syouy Nam Tai 6-1, 6-2 for the Far East doubles crown.

The two had to play six each singles and doubles matches in one day, switching throughout.

"It's hard to switch ... in such a short amount of time, but you have to suck it up and change your mindset quickly," Noah said. "It's hard to work with someone you're playing against, but it's part of the sport and you have to deal with it sometimes."

For the success Noah, Inahara is Stars and Stripes Pacific boys tennis Athlete of the Year.

Inahara won Far East singles for the second straight year and doubles all four years he was at ASUJ. Having to wait until his junior year, and taking leaps from St. Mary's Marius Ruh and Juan Borgia during his freshman and sophomore years only made him stronger, he said.

"It definitely helped to push me harder



in practices, because I knew I had to get better if I wanted to win," Inahara said. "Playing players like Juan and Marius definitely prepared me for matches as they were the ones who I looked up to."

As the Mustangs boys team's signature player, junior teammate Leon Hoy likened Inahara to "the frame of the tennis racket, holding everyone together as one."

"He almost seems like a futuristic tennis player," said Hoy, who played doubles alongside Inahara last year. "He will have perfect serves and make every single volley at the net consistently."

In singles, Inahara's consistency "helps him even more because he drives those hard shots corner to corner, making it hard for the opponent to break him down," Hoy said.

"Noah is a brother I've always wanted in my life. He is calm both on and off the court, but he is intelligent with a great sense of humor."

NFL ROUNDUP

41  **16**

DENVER — Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and the New England Patriots matched their own AFC record with their 12th consecutive road victory, pummeling Denver.

These teams have represented the AFC in the last four Super Bowls, and the Broncos (3-6) were hoping a visit from their rivals would help shake them from their funk.

Instead, the Broncos fizzled.

They saw their losing streak reach five games, their longest skid in seven seasons, and they lost back-to-back games to the Patriots (7-2) in Denver for the first time since 1966.

Avoiding Von Miller all night and throwing for 266 yards on 25-for-34 passing, Brady improved to 8-9 against the Broncos, the only team he has a losing record against, and he set a career fourth time in 11 trips to Denver. His 86th regular-season road win broke a tie with Peyton Manning for most all-time.

For the first time since 1979, the Patriots had a special teams takeaway, a blocked punt and a kickoff return for a touchdown, a rare time fueled a comfortable 27-17 halftime lead.

31  **21**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — C.J. Beathard threw for 288 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third score to lead San Francisco past New York for its first victory of the season.

Beathard connected on an 83-yard, 13th-quarter Goalline Kick to a 47-yarder to Garrett Celek in the second quarter as the 49ers (1-9) took advantage of another listless effort by the Giants (1-8) to win for the first time under coach Kyle Shanahan.

Beathard's time as starting quarterback in San Francisco figures to be numbered after the team acquired Jimmy Garoppolo two weeks ago in trade from New England. Garoppolo has been learning the offense and could take over when the team returns from the bye in two weeks.

33  **7**

LOS ANGELES — Robert Woods caught two of Jared Goff's touchdown passes to give him a dominant third quarter, and surging Los Angeles returned after a month away from home for their fourth straight victory.

After struggling to a 9-7 lead during a quiet first half for the NFL's highest-scoring team, the Rams (2-2) ran away with a series of big throws by Goff, who passed for a career-high 355 yards.

Woods caught a 94-yard TD pass to break it open before Sammy Watkins and Woods made TD catches 19 seconds apart late in the third quarter. The Rams defense shut out Houston in the second half and won at the Coliseum for just the third time in 11 games since returning to Los Angeles.

Tom Savage passed for 221 yards with two interceptions for Houston, which lost its second season since losing rookie quarterback Deshaun Watson.



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, throws as Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller applies pressure during the first half on Sunday in Denver.

47  **10**

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Mark Ingram scored a career-best three touchdowns and New Orleans won its seventh straight game by plowing through a porous Buffalo defense.

Alvin Kamara also had a 3-yard touchdown rushing as the Saints blew the game open by scoring five times on their first six possessions, not including a one-play series to close the first half. Ingram finished with 131 yards rushing. He scored twice on 3 yards and again on a 1-yard plunge.

The Saints finished with 298 yards rushing and 32 first downs.

20  **17**

INDIANAPOLIS — Ben Roethlisberger's 32-yard completion to Antonio Brown with 35 seconds set up a 33-yard field goal from Chris Boswell as time expired.

The Steelers (7-2) have won four straight overall and five in a row in the series.

But it sure wasn't easy as the Colts (3-7) held Roethlisberger, Brown and Le'Veon Bell in check. Pittsburgh needed two second-half TD passes from Roethlisberger to fight its way out of a 17-3 third-quarter deficit. And Roethlisberger reverted to his traditional form on the Steelers' final possession.

38  **28**

LANDOVER, Md. — Case Keenum threw touchdowns to four different receivers to build a big lead, and the NFC North-leading Vikings won their fifth in a row.

With Teddy Bridgewater active for the first time since January 2016 after a devastating knee injury, Keenum was 21-for-29 for 304 yards and TD passes to Stefon Diggs, Adam Thielen, David Morgan and Jarius Wright. He was picked off on consecutive throws by D.J. Swearinger.

Latavius Murray also ran for a TD as five players got into the end zone for Minnesota (7-2), which was 8-for-12 on third downs.

23  **16**

CHICAGO — Brett Hundley threw for 212 yards and a touchdown, Nick Perry had three sacks and the Packers snapped a three-game losing streak.

Hundley, starting his third game for an injured Aaron Rodgers, threw a 17-yard touchdown to Davante Adams to make it 23-13 with 5:29 to play, and the Packers (5-4) hung on to beat the Bears (3-6) for the eighth time in nine games.

It was the first victory for a Packers QB not named Rodgers or Brett Favre since 1989.

Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky threw a career-high 297 yards.

24  **20**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Marcus Mariota tossed a 7-yard touchdown pass to DeMarco Murray with 36 seconds left, and the Titans rallied for their fourth consecutive victory.

It's the longest winning streak for the Titans (6-3) since its' kick five straight in 2009, and it's their best start to a season since 2008 when the Titans last reached the playoffs as the AFC's No. 1 seed.

Murray ran for two touchdowns, and Mariota finished with 264 yards passing.

38  **24**

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Matthew Stafford lofted a 29-yard, tiebreaking touchdown to Eric Ebron early in the fourth quarter and the Lions went on to beat the winless Browns.

The Lions (5-4) rallied from first- and second-half deficits to earn consecutive victories for the first time since winning the first two games this season. The Browns, who fell to 0-9 on the season, led 10-0 early in the game for their first double-digit lead of the season, and were up 24-17 in the third after Deshaun Kizer led two consecutive touchdown drives.

Cleveland's chances to finally win this season were hurt when Kizer took a shot to the ribs

20  **17**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Josh Lambo kicked a 30-yard field goal with 3:12 remaining in overtime, lifting the Jaguars in a wild game.

Lambo's kick got tipped at the line but the scrimmage and still cleared the crossbar. The former soccer player and one-time Charger ran the other way and slid on both knees near midfield before getting mobbed by teammates.

It gave Jacksonville its first three-game winning streak since 2013.

The game ended up in overtime after a wacky final two minutes of regulation that included a fumble, two interceptions, a taunting penalty and a costly flag for roughing the passer.

After all the chaos, Lambo drilled a 34-yard field goal to send it to the extra period.

15  **10**

TAMPA, Fla. — Ryan Fitzpatrick led two scoring drives and Tampa Bay limited the Jets to less than 200 yards of offense until late in the fourth quarter to snap a five-game losing streak.

With Fitzpatrick filling in for injured quarterback Jameis Winston, the Buccaneers (3-6) used three field goals to build a 9-3 lead. Charles Sims put the game out of reach with a 6-yard touchdown reception with just over six minutes remaining.

Fitzpatrick, facing the team he played for the past two seasons, completed 17 of 34 passes for 187 yards and was intercepted once.

The 34-year-old Fitzpatrick, one of just four players in NFL history to throw TD passes for seven different teams, led a seven-minute drive that produced a field goal in the first quarter. He finished a 15-play, 81-yard march, also lasting more than seven minutes, with his TD pass to Sims to make it 15-3.

Josh McCown, also facing one of his former teams, was 23-for-39 for 263 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

Seven from Sunday

■ Atlanta defensive end **Adrian Clayborn** recorded a career-high six sacks, forced two fumbles and recovered a fumble in the Falcons' 27-7 win against Dallas. Clayborn's six sacks are a single-game franchise record (**Chuck Smith**, five on October 12, 1997) and are tied for the second-most in a game since the individual sack became an official statistic in 1982. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer **Derrick Thomas** (seven on November 11, 1990) had more sacks in a single game.

■ New Orleans Saints running back **Mark Ingram** scored three touchdowns in Sunday's victory, joining **George Rogers** (November 8, 1981) and **Ricky Williams** (October 22, 2000) as the only Saints players to rush for at least 130 yards and three touchdowns in a game.

■ Los Angeles Rams quarterback **Jared Goff** completed 25 of 37 passes (67.6 percent) for 355 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions for a 125.4 passer rating in the Rams' 33-7 win over Houston. Goff, who passed for 311 yards with four touchdowns and no interceptions for a 146.8 passer rating last week, is the first player in franchise history to pass for at least 300 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions in consecutive games.

■ Detroit **CB Matthew Stafford** threw three touchdown passes — including the game-winning score to tight end **Eric Ebron** with 10:46 remaining in the fourth quarter — in the Lions' 38-24 win over Cleveland. The performance marked Stafford's 30th career game-winning drive in the fourth quarter or overtime. Among players who made their NFL debut since 1970, Stafford has reached 30 such game-winning drives in the fewest number of career games (18).

■ Pittsburgh rookie wide receiver **Ju J Smith-Schuster** had five catches for 97 yards with a touchdown and Indianapolis kicker **Adam Vinatieri** scored five points (one field goal and two PATs) in the Steelers' 20-17 win against the Colts. Sunday's contest marked the first time in NFL history that a player under the age of 21 (Smith-Schuster, 20 years old) and a player over the age of 40 (Vinatieri, 44 years old) each scored a point in the same game.

■ Jacksonville running back **Corey Grant** rushed for a 56-yard touchdown — on a fake punt — on fourth down against the Jets. Grant's 20-17 overtime win against the Los Angeles Chargers. Grant, who had a 58-yard fourth-down run on a fake punt in Week 3, has two runs of at least 50 yards on fourth down this season, which is as many as all other active players have combined in their careers.

■ Minnesota wide receiver **Adam Thielen** had eight catches for 166 yards and a touchdown in the Vikings' 38-30 win at Washington. Thielen, who was not drafted out of Minnesota State in 2013, has three career games with at least 150 receiving yards, the most among active players who went undrafted.



Falcons DE Adrian Clayborn

CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/C-17

NFL

Week 10 takeaways

More concussion cases in need of review

Protocol for dealing with head injuries inconsistent

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — With all of the supposed improvements in how the NFL deals with players' head injuries — after scrutiny from Congress, then lawsuits — there still are curious cases that pop up, including at least three this week.

Example A: During Minnesota's 38-30 victory at Washington on Sunday, Redskins receiver Ryan Grant, all 200 pounds of him, got slammed to the turf by Vikings defensive tackle Linval Joseph, who runs about 325. Fairly quickly, the Redskins announced Grant was being checked for a concussion — which made sense, given what the impact looked like.

Less than 10 minutes later, the team said Grant was cleared to return, which seemed surprising. Less than five minutes after that came word from Washington that "training staff has elected to conduct further evaluation." And after another 15 minutes, Grant was ruled done for the day. Who knows what really went on during that half-hour?

Example B: In Pittsburgh's 20-17 win over Indianapolis, Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett absorbed a helmet-to-helmet hit from Steelers defensive lineman Stephen Tuitt. Brissett immediately reached his left hand to the back of his helmet, the point of impact, before his body went limp. He was helped off the ground by two teammates, then went to the sideline.

According to the Colts, Brissett was evaluated twice for a concussion, passed



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Colts quarterback Jacoby Brissett went limp on the ground following a helmet-to-helmet hit from the Steelers' Stephen Tuitt on Sunday, only to return without missing a snap after he — according to the Colts — passed two concussion evaluations. Brissett struggled the rest of the game and wasn't allowed to speak to the media afterwards when he reportedly developed concussion symptoms in the locker room.

the tests twice, and so was allowed to return to the game. Guess what happened on his first subsequent pass? An interception, helping Indianapolis blow what had been a 17-9 lead when Brissett initially was checked in the third quarter. Adding to the

mystery: Brissett wasn't allowed to speak to the media after the game because, the Colts said, he developed concussion symptoms once he was "in the locker room for several minutes."

Example C: While leading Seattle past

Did you know

The 0-16 watch is now on only for the Cleveland Browns: The San Francisco 49ers finally gave Kyle Shanahan his first victory as an NFL head coach, 31-21 over the New York Giants.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Arizona 22-16 on Thursday night, Seahawks QB Russell Wilson was hit in the chin by a defender. He was sent off the field by the referee. After a brief visit to the sideline injury tent, missing merely one play, Wilson returned to action. The NFL has said it will review whether the Seahawks followed the proper concussion protocol.

Now the league has a couple of other instances to review, too.

Stat of the week

Easy to overlook in a game with a finish as outlandish as they come, Jaguars RB Corey Grant's 56-yard TD run on a fake punt way back in the first quarter of Jacksonville's 20-17 OT victory over the Los Angeles Chargers is worth noting. It was the second run of at least 50 yards on fourth down this season for Grant — who went undrafted out of Auburn in 2015 and has made all of one NFL start — and gives him the same total as the combined career count for all other active players in the entire league.

Cool: Around league, not thinking frequently means not winning

FROM BACK PAGE

"We've obviously got the talent," Bengals linebacker Carl Lawson said after Cincinnati self-destructed in a 24-20 defeat at Tennessee. "But talent doesn't win games."

That the Bengals have the skills isn't as evident as Lawson says. That they stop thinking at critical junctures of games is far too apparent.

Last week, it was A.J. Green, usually the consummate pro, getting into a fight. This time, it was Vontaze Burfitt — yes, him again — getting ejected for touching an official. Burfitt will face a fine, but won't be suspended, according to a league spokesman on Monday.

"It's tough on him (Burfitt) being one of our best players and getting thrown out of a game is not a great feeling," Green reasoned. "You hurt your team. I did it last week, and I regret it. I'm embarrassed with what I did last week, but you can't lose your cool."

It was even worse for the Chargers and, despite victory, the Jags. They each had a string of no-thought moments in a wacky affair won 20-17 in overtime by Jacksonville.

Try this, all after the two-minute warm:

After Jaguars quarterback



JASON BENNETT/AP

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers — who entered the game with a league-low eight sacks — brought down New York quarterback Josh McCown, left, six times in their 15-10 win over the Jets.

Blake Bortles throws into double coverage and Tre Boston intercepts a tipped pass, rookie Austin Ekeler fumbles in the backfield with the Chargers trying to run down the clock. Tashaun Gipson picks up the ball and runs for 35 yards for an apparent touchdown, but officials rule he was touched down after a replay review.

Chargers safety Trevor Williams gets flagged for pass interference, putting the Jaguars in field-goal range. Bortles throws

"We've obviously got the talent. But talent doesn't win games."

Carl Lawson

Cincinnati Bengals linebacker

deep to Marqise Lee and a flag flies in the end zone. Lee expects defensive pass interference and does a dance that officials determine is taunting. Plus, no penalty for LA.

Then Boston picks off Bortles again. Rather than return the ball in an open field, he steps out of bounds and, like Lee, begins celebrating.

"That was one of the dumb things," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "Never seen it before."

LA goes three-and-out as Jacksonville uses its timeouts.

Downfield Jacksonville marches, but it stalls until DE Joey Bosa gets flagged for roughing the passer with 24 seconds remaining. Josh Lambo's 34-yard field forces OT.

In overtime, Jags cornerback A.J. Bouye wrestles a deep pass away from Travis Benjamin and returns the interception to the 2-yard line, but teammate Aaron Colvin gets called for taunting.

Eventually, Lambo nails the winning field goal anyway. "I'm exhausted right now," Jags-

uars coach Doug Marrone said. "I'm shot. I'm shot. ... I'm living and dying on every single play."

Tennessee also survived even though first-round pick Corey Davis cost it a likely touchdown at the end of a 19-yard catch-and-run play. He lost control of the ball as he reached across the goal line, and while teammate DeMarco Murray caught the ball past the goal line, he was out of bounds. Originally ruled a TD, it was reversed to a touchback on replay review.

"I shouldn't have put my team in that position," Davis said.

Chicago had no excuses for drawing seven penalties in the first half, plus three more that were declined. The Bears were coming off a bye and should have been plenty prepared.

"It seems uncharacteristic for us," said QB Mitchell Trubisky, who as a rookie probably doesn't know quite yet what Chicago's traits are. "We were locked in, ready to go, but I guess we weren't just focused at that moment. So we're going to analyze that. We

know that's one of our weaknesses right now. I mean, we're only hurting ourselves."

They are also hurting in the Jersey Meadowlands. The Giants now have as many wins as the 49ers — one — after falling at San Francisco in yet another debacle under beleaguered coach Ben McAdoo.

"We got schooled," said cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, who has been suspended once this season for breaking team rules. ("... Everything we should have done, I felt we did not do it.")

Actually, they did plenty — plenty wrong.

Same for their roommates at MetLife Stadium, the Jets. They were so bad that the Buccaneers, who entered Sunday with a league-low eight sacks, got six of Josh McCown.

"You've got to show up every week in this league or you'll get it handed to you," coach Todd Bowles noted. "We didn't show up today."

Mentally or physically.

SPORTS



Make it a dozen
Celtics get by Raptors for
12th straight win » **Page 25**

Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis talks with linebacker Vontaze Burfict after Burfict was ejected for making contact with an official during Sunday's game against the Tennessee Titans.

MARK ZALESKI/AP

NFL: WEEK 10



Keep your cool

Talent can't always overcome mental errors

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Professional athletes recognize perfection might be a goal, though not a realistic one.

Teammates, coaches, owners, even fans can handle losses as long as their

teams are diligent and passionate.

It's when the brains stop working that things become hard to handle.

So if folks in Cincinnati, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Jacksonville and Nashville are beside themselves after Sunday's action — and the Jaguars and Titans won — who can blame them?

SEE COOL ON PAGE 31

Inside:

■ Cowboys struggle against Falcons without Elliott, Smith, Page 28

Right: Jaguars cornerback A.J. Bouye, left, intercepts a pass intended for Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Travis Benjamin during overtime on Sunday. Bouye returned the interception to the 2-yard line, but teammate Aaron Colvin negated the return after being flagged for taunting.

PHILAN M. ESENHACK/AP



Pacific tennis Athletes of Year named » High School, Page 28

